

*On Tuesday, January 25th*

## Aruba observes Betico Croes Day

**ORANJESTAD** - Aruba's first national holiday of the year is dedicated to the memory of Gilberto "Betico" Croes, often referred to as "El Liberador." Born on January 25, 1938, he left his mark on the island as a revered statesman and leader of the Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo, MEP. He was instrumental in Aruba obtaining autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, separate from the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles. He passed away in November, 1986, the year Aruba realized Status Aparte.

Festive observances will fill the day, beginning with the traditional solemn ceremony in the Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad. Island dignitaries will attend the event, led by Governor Fredis Refunjol and his wife, Clarette, along with Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Godfried Eman and his wife, Doina.

As tradition requires, the ceremony will begin with memorial wreaths being placed at the foot of the statue of Betico Croes. The first will be placed on behalf of the Aruban Parliament; Prime Minister Eman and Secretary to the Ministers Nicole Hovertsz will continue the ceremonies with the second wreath on behalf of the Aruban Government.

This will be followed by the daughters of Betico Croes, Guisette and Glendeline, on behalf of the family, and finalized by the members representing the Betico Croes Foundation.

The morning's protocol event will mark the beginning of a day filled with festivities and activities by various sports organizations, foundations and historical institutions around the island. □





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## Gay marriage could move forward in some U.S. states



NEW YORK — A handful of U.S. states are poised to take up the issue of gay marriage afresh, due largely to incoming lawmakers who may tip the balance in favor of the controversial measure.

In Maryland, New York and Rhode Island in particular, the legalization of same-sex marriages is moving ahead, organizers and supporters say. “We have the numbers,” said Maryland state Sen. Richard Madaleno Jr.

“We’ve never been in a better position.”

The November 2010 election brought a “significant shift,” especially in the Senate, said Madaleno, one of Maryland’s seven openly gay legislators, three of whom are newly elected.

Even more important, Maryland’s Senate Judicial Proceedings committee, which

has prevented gay marriage bills from reaching a floor vote, has several new, sympathetic members, said Morgan Meneses-Sheets of Equality Maryland, an advocacy group. Majority leaders of both houses plan to co-sponsor gay marriage measures. Gov. Martin O’Malley, whose opponent was against gay marriage, has pledged to sign such a bill, Nationwide, after the Congressional vote to repeal the “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy which expelled thousands of gay people from the U.S. military, gay rights advocates are pushing ahead on marriage.

“The work of persuasion, of personal conversations, of talking to lawmakers and mobilizing against a well-funded anti-gay opposition” are among the primary tasks for

the lobbying group Freedom to Marry, said founder Evan Wolfson.

“With the freedom to marry within reach this year in states such as New York, Maryland and Rhode Island, now is the time to have those conversations and move marriage forward,” he said.

Nearly half of the states have amended their constitutions, however, to prohibit marriage between same-sex partners or defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman, rendering gay marriage beyond reach any time soon.

In New York, where newly-inaugurated Gov. Andrew Cuomo strongly supports gay marriage, lawmakers remain divided but advocates say the prospects are improved with the popular governor’s backing.

“Its chances only get better,” said Democratic Sen. Thomas Duane, the state’s only openly gay senator, who has said he would introduce a gay marriage bill and push for a vote by summer. “Public support grows every time the issue is debated.”

Although not a supporter, Dean Skelos, leader of the majority Republicans in the Senate, has said he would not block such a bill coming to the Senate floor for a vote so legislators can

make their positions known, according to rights group Empire State Pride Agenda.

Put to a so-called conscience vote, gay marriage has a better chance this year than it did in 2009, said Democratic Sen. Malcolm Smith of New York City, when the Assembly approved it but the Senate did not.

“It is premature to make predictions or attempt head counts based solely on prior votes, but there is reason to be confident,” said Ross Levi of Empire State Pride Agenda.

One of the most vocal opponents, Bronx Democrat Sen. Ruben Diaz, would not comment on prospects for passage. “There are more pressing issues facing the state,” such as the budget and overhauling ethics laws, Diaz said.

Gay marriage is legal in Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Iowa and the District of Columbia, although a bill to revoke it was introduced in Iowa recently.

In California and New Jersey civil unions, which mimic but do not provide all the legal benefits of marriage, are being challenged in court.

The other West coast states, Hawaii and Illinois have broad domestic partnership or civil

union provisions. Several states, including Pennsylvania, Minnesota, North Carolina and Indiana do not deal with the issue, neither granting nor denying it.

The fresh battles come with passionate opposition.

In Maryland, Republican Sen. Allan Kittleman said he would introduce a bill legalizing civil unions, drawing heat from fellow Republicans.

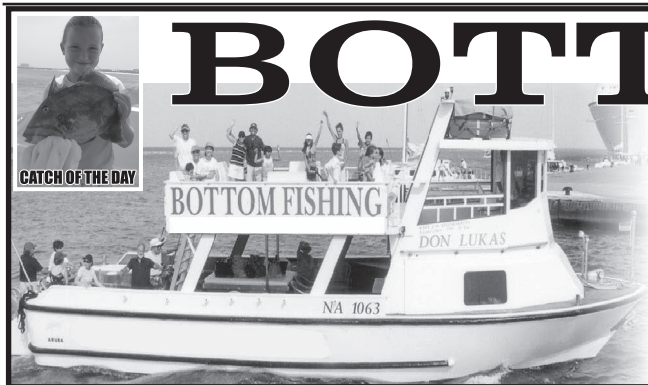
Maryland Delegate Don Dwyer, who opposes civil unions and gay marriage, said he “can’t wait for the debate.” Should gay marriage pass, he said he is confident of a referendum which “will drive the conservatives to the polls,” where he predicted it would be defeated.

Marriage bills were introduced this month in the House and Senate in Rhode Island, a heavily Roman Catholic but relatively liberal state, where polls show a majority of residents favor what advocates call “marriage freedom.”

Newly elected Gov. Lincoln Chafee, whose predecessor vowed to veto gay marriage, voiced support at his inauguration, stressing the potential economic benefits.

But the Senate in Rhode Island is presided over by Sen. Teresa Paiva Weed, a gay marriage opponent. □





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## Accused Tucson shooter to appear in federal court

PHOENIX— Tucson shooting rampage suspect Jared Loughner is due to appear in federal court on Monday on charges of attempting to assassinate Representative Gabrielle Giffords and the attempted murder of two of her staff members.

A troubled 22-year-old college dropout, Loughner is accused of opening fire on Giffords and a crowd of bystanders outside a grocery store in north Tucson on January 8, killing six people, including federal judge John Roll.

He will be arraigned on the three counts of attempted assassination and attempted murder in U.S. District Court in central Phoenix at 1:30 p.m. before District Judge Larry

Burns. The mass killings triggered debates about gun control in the United States, and the increasingly vitriolic tone in U.S. politics, although the motives for the attack are unclear.

A federal judge from California, Burns was appointed to the case after Roll's colleagues on the Arizona federal bench recused themselves from hearing the case. Authorities said that Giffords was the primary target in the attack, in which she was shot through the head at point-blank range.

She was transferred to a rehabilitation facility in Houston, Texas, on Friday, following life-saving surgery and intensive care at the

University Medical Center in Tucson in the days after the shooting.

A federal grand jury indictment brought on Wednesday did not include any murder charges for Roll, the chief federal judge in Arizona who had stopped at the supermarket store to talk to Giffords, or Gabe Zimmerman, the lawmaker's director of community outreach.

Before the government can charge Loughner for the murders of Roll and Zimmerman and because such charges could carry the death penalty prosecutors must first seek review by the Justice Department and ultimately approval from Attorney General Eric Holder

to seek the death penalty." Loughner faces up to life in prison if convicted of Giffords' attempted assassination, and up to 20 years for the attempted murder of her two staff members.

A five-count criminal complaint filed the day after the shooting included two first-degree murder charges for the deaths of Roll and Zimmerman. □



## Missouri robbers slip up in snow

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Three teenagers who had been robbing drivers stranded in the snow in the southern area of Kansas City were apprehended when their own vehicle became stuck, police officials said on Sunday.

Two of the alleged robbers, Michael Wilson Jr., 17, and Darion Page, 18, are being held at the Jackson County Detention Center after being charged with two counts of robbery and two counts armed criminal action each. A third robber, an unnamed juvenile, is not being held there.

"We got approximately 8 inches of snow and it was really bad outside, really slippery," said Detective Jonathan Cranston of the Kansas City police department's robbery unit.

"In one instance they stopped at a vehicle and said 'hey, are you stuck, do you need some help' and then pulled out a gun and demanded their valuables."

The robberies began Wednesday, officials said, when a preacher became stuck in the snow and a man stopped to help. When they were digging the preacher's vehicle out a Chevrolet Suburban approached, two men jumped out one of whom was carrying a semiautomatic handgun and demanded money.

The trio robbed at least two other vehicles and when police were responding to one of the earlier robberies they came across a Chevrolet Suburban that matched the description of the robbers' vehicle. It had become stuck in the snow, Detective Cranston said.

Officers collected \$42 in stolen cash and credit cards from the vehicles and took the three suspects into custody.

"We think they may have been involved in other robberies," Detective Cranston said.

The suspects are being held on a \$50,000 cash bond and a court date is set for February 9. □

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# Cold hits much of nation, Northeast faces storm



WASHINGTON — Temperatures in most of the country stayed near or below freezing on Sunday, with dangerous sub-zero wind chills threatening the Northeast and the Midwest into Monday, according to forecasters.

The severely cold weather will set the stage for “a potent winter storm” early next week,

forecasters for the Weather Channel said.

AccuWeather.com’s Alex Sosnowski predicts that the Northeast is in for a storm rivaling last month’s Christmas blizzard.

“More and more signs are pointing toward a major storm along much of the Atlantic Seaboard next week, meaning a wind-whipped snow for

some areas and wind-driven rain for others,” he said on AccuWeather’s website.

The snowy shellacking isn’t expected to arrive until Tuesday after the Southeast gets its own cold soak, the Weather Channel said.

“After a dry day region-wide on Monday, snow will begin to move in from the Midwest Monday night into Tuesday,

with a stronger and messier system moving up the coast on Wednesday,” Weather Channel meteorologist Mark Avery said.

Upstate New York and New England will dip into the single digits. The Mid-Atlantic region will stay closer to freezing. Meteorologist Daniel Brown of Springfield, Massachusetts news channel abc40 said temperatures could sink to a new record low of -20 Monday morning, beating the current record nadir of -12 set in 1961.

“The bitter blast will loosen its grip by Tuesday afternoon,” Brown said.

Springfield’s police and homeless shelter officials will be working in the downtown streets, urging homeless people to seek shelter indoors, reported Springfield daily The Republican.

Tennessee, which has had four major snowstorms so far this season, has depleted its stockpile of road salt and schools have already overdrawn their bank of snow days.

Tennessee Department of Transportation chief engineer

Paul Degges wrote on the department’s web site that TDOT is working with its salt supplier to replenish the supply.

In the meantime, the state will increase its use of snow plows. Crews also will step up the use of salt brine and calcium chloride to stretch salt supplies.

The widespread forecast for snow might pose further problems. Anything more than a light powdering could cause more dangerous road conditions and further school cancellations.

Snow has already started to coat the plains. Omaha, Nebraska woke up to as much as 8 inches of snow on Sunday morning with the temperature hitting as low as five below zero. Many churches canceled services. In the West, the more northern states are expected to get wet Sunday night, particularly Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

California, however, is expected to feel higher than average temperatures, reaching as high as 80 in the southern part of the Golden State. □

## Popularity of vampires spawns subculture, scholar says

SALMON, Idaho — They work as doctors and lawyers by day but lurk as vampires by night. While they may not wish to suck your blood, there are plenty of willing victims on tap, says the nation’s top scholar on a subculture that emulates the undead.

Idaho State University sociologist D.J. Williams, newly hired as a consultant for a proposed television documentary about “self-identified vampires,” said true modern acolytes of Dracula seek consensual blood-sharing relationships.

The popular fascination with vampires dates back to the 1897 publication of Bram Stoker’s “Dracula,” and later books such as Anne Rice’s “The Vampire Chronicles.”

But it exploded in recent years with the best-selling “Twilight” series of novels by

Stephenie Meyer and movie adaptations. The seductive vampire character Edward Cullen in the movie, played by actor Robert Pattinson, became a teen idol and made vampires cool.

Vampire mania has spawned an international subculture that strongly relates to traits associated with mythical vampires. They are believed to be seductive beings unafraid to explore the dark side of human nature that is usually masked for the sake of social acceptance.

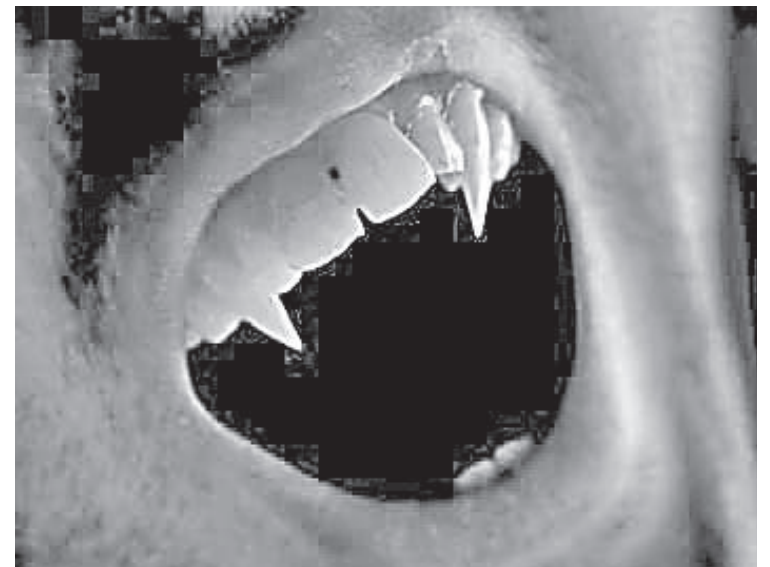
“Self-identified vampires realize humans are a mix of light and dark,” said Williams. “There is the socially desirable self that people show in public and then there is the shadow self that may not be as nice, not as optimistic. It varies from person to person, but generally vampires don’t pretend it’s not

there: they acknowledge it and try to manage it.”

What separates them from mere vampire wannabes the guy in a cape who sleeps in coffins or believes he is capable of morphing into a bat is an internal lack of energy that makes them seek energy from external sources such as the high that comes from the crowd at a rock concert or from the blood of a willing donor.

“They call it feeding,” said Williams, who also moonlights as an FBI consultant for investigations involving violent criminals who are claiming to be vampires.

Williams says self-identified vampires seek significant others with an abundance of energy willing to allow them to suck blood from a small incision made high up on the chest by a scalpel.



“Quite often, they are in a relationship with a donor, where one person has energy blockages and the partner has excess energy; it’s a perfect, symbiotic relationship,” he said.

The arrangement is legal because it is struck between two consenting adults and aims to have no ill effect, said Williams.

He is pioneering the study of such alternative lifestyles. It took years for the scholar in forensic social work,

criminal justice and leisure sciences to gain the trust of self-identifying vampires, whom he says are widely misunderstood.

“The negative discourse out there about blood and the transmission of infectious diseases just drives them underground,” said Williams, who advises vampire acquaintances to abide by safe blood-drinking practices like having donors tested for HIV and other ailments transmitted by blood. □



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## The tea party will fail unless it fully embraces individualism as a moral ideal

Washington – They're calling it the tea party Congress, and the new leadership is busy snipping earmarks, targeting Obamacare, and quoting the Constitution. But can they succeed where similar conservative backlashes have failed? Whatever your opinion of the whole tea party movement and mine stops far short of blanket approval you have to admit it has some interesting qualities that set it apart from conservative approaches of decades past. By idealistically venerating the founding fathers, the tea party avoids the kind of cynical pragmatism that reigned in Richard Nixon's era. By steering clear of religiously divisive "social issues," the tea party avoids the kind of attack on the Constitution's separation of church and state that characterized Ronald Reagan's era. And by stressing that both major

political parties are guilty of expanding government power without apparent limit, the tea party breaks with the neoconservative, big-government Republicanism that held sway in George W. Bush's era. Entrenched thinkingAll this has generated a refreshing "clean sweep" sensibility, consistent with a grass-roots movement of Americans who are sincerely focused on individual freedom and frustrated at the futility of past efforts to combat the seemingly unstoppable encroachment by government power. If I close my eyes, I can almost imagine the tea party making good on its promise to permanently restore some of our freedom. But with eyes wide open, I see a movement imperiled by the same entrenched thinking that has driven government's growth for more than a century.

One side of the divided tea-party mentality (its "right brain," so to speak) recoils from the cumulative impact of government programs enacted over more than a century. In the wake of unprecedented "stimulus" spending, Wall Street bailouts, "Government Motors," and Obamacare's takeover of health insurance, the movement foresees economic ruin and diminished freedom for all Americans. To combat these evils, the tea party invokes America's founding ideals of individual rights and limited government, and talks about cutting big government down to size. Meanwhile, however, the tea party's "left brain" harbors the same moral impetus that has justified bigger and bigger government since the Progressive Era. The basic idea is that some people's needs constitute a moral claim on the lives and wealth



of others. The list of needs is endless: economic stability, job security, housing, health care, retirement funds. To satisfy those needs, government concocts regulatory and wealth transfer schemes that coercively subject the individual to society. Over the years, each new program from the Federal Reserve to Social Security, Medicare, and beyond acquires an aura of moral dignity that renders it politically untouchable by

later generations. The needs of others permanently displace the freedom of the individual. Based on this conflict, my prognosis has the tea party headed for the political equivalent of an epileptic seizure. Consider that the movement's once-unanimous rallying cry of "Repeal Obamacare!" has already morphed into "repeal and replace," so as to "retain some of its more popular provisions." □

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# Church collection plates may go empty as electronic giving rises



ARLINGTON, Virginia—Brie Hall felt awkward the first few times she passed the collection basket at her Catholic church without tossing in a donation envelope.

But it is more convenient to give her gift to God by direct debit from her checking account.

The tradition of passing the church plate might become a relic of the past, as a majority of Americans pay bills electronically and move away

from using cash or writing checks.

Despite concerns about commercializing something so personal, electronic giving to churches is growing.

“You just kind of get over it because you know you’ve donated,” said Hall, a communications manager for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

At the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington, about half of

the 1,600 congregants who give regular donations do so electronically, up from 20 percent four years ago.

“For some people, they’ll never change,” said its pastor, Monsignor John Enzler. “Other people find it’s a wonderful way to do their giving.”

Along with Catholic dioceses, religious organizations such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America have approved electronic giving as an option for their members.

Each church can decide whether to adopt the practice, available from electronic payment processing companies since the late 1990s.

Church staff are often the toughest sell, said Vijay Jeste, product manager for electronic giving for Our Sunday Visitor, a Huntington, Indiana-based maker of donation envelopes for Catholic churches, which started offering electronic payment processing in 2009.

Reluctance to pay a fee to process collections melts away as parishes “realize that this is the way to go,” Jeste said.

“This is not an option they can put off for too long,” he said. Some church leaders object to electronic giving because they do not want parishioners piling

more debt onto overloaded credit cards. Others say it interferes with the ritual of making a tangible sacrifice during the service.

“Their concern is that giving is not reduced to the act of paying a bill,” said Bill Townes, vice president of convention finance for the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Convention does not have an official position on electronic giving and does not track it among its 45,000 member churches, Townes said.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America learned the value of online donations when it made an appeal last year for victims of Haiti’s earthquake, said Theo Nicolakis, its director of information technology and Internet ministries.

The archdiocese found almost 4 percent of its online visitors do not attend religious service, and about 28 percent of visitors are not even Greek Orthodox.

“We’re technically reaching people who we would never reach,” Nicolakis said.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, an early adopter of online giving, allows donations via Facebook and cell phone texts.

“If we don’t provide an easy way to give, they’re going to

give elsewhere,” Nicolakis said.

While electronic giving has grown in popularity at Enzler’s Catholic church in Washington, which signed up with payment company Faith Direct in 2006, only a quarter of the archdiocese’s 140 churches have followed suit. But last February’s epic snowstorm in the Washington area converted some disbelievers, Enzler said. With many churchgoers trapped at home, he estimates the archdiocese lost about \$1.4 million about \$10,000 per church.

Parishioners miss an average of 10 services a year at their home parish, said W. Brian Walsh, founder of the Alexandria, Virginia-based Faith Direct.

Direct debit and credit card payments mean more consistent giving, according to electronic payment companies, which estimate collections increase 10 percent to 30 percent.

Since 2003, Walsh has made contracts with nearly 300 churches in 45 Catholic dioceses nationwide.

For an average parish with 1,500 families, Faith Direct charges an annual fee of about \$7,800. Other companies charge a percentage of the total collection. □

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**EAGLE BEACH** - While visiting the beautiful island of Aruba, the Mentas family from North Carolina, not only fell in love with the people of Aruba, but also one very sweet brown and white female beach dog. That happy little dog was one of the best parts of their vacation.

They first met her on the beach near the Aruba Beach Club on Sat, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and last saw her on Tuesday night, Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued on Page A8*

*Enjoy a celebration for the entire family!*

## Renaissance Marketplace Is Hosting A Special Event On "Dia Di Betico"



**ORANJESTAD** - Renaissance Marketplace is the place to be with your family, we will once again celebrate 'Dia di Betico'. Event organizers are sending out this invitation to invite everyone to mark in their calendars for the big, animated celebration that will take place on January 25.

What makes the celebration at the Renaissance Marketplace more special than those anywhere else is that although this is a national holiday, this event is geared towards island visitors as much as it is towards locals. If you are

looking for a nice traditional festivity to experience the January 25<sup>th</sup> holiday, visit Renaissance Marketplace for the perfect combination of dining, shopping and entertainment and to have great quality time with family members and friends. Enhancing the experience further, the restaurants and bars at the Marketplace will feature themed menus with special prices.

The famous traditional group, "Grupo di Betico", will open the show, presenting their greatest and unforgettable

hits from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Grupo di Betico was founded by the late Aruban politician Betico Croes, whose birthday is commemorated with this national holiday as a posthumous honoring for the important role he played in achieving the island's Status Aparte. Betico's family members have proudly kept the group going, through the years modernizing the themes and rhythms of the songs, while nurturing the special collective family talent for making everyone want to get up and dance.



We will have the performance of the dance group "Folclor di Santa Cruz", featuring the "baile di cinta". This ribbon dance is the local version of the traditional European maypole dance which is incorporated in all national holiday celebrations on Aruba.

This dance group will also join Grupo di Betico during the show which will take place on the stage in front of Café the Plaza.

Don't think twice, mark your calendars and make sure to take part at this grand celebration. Enjoy a night of traditional music, dance and great ambiance together with the big family of Renaissance Marketplace, where every celebration is extra special. □







*Continued from Page A7*

Jennifer Mentas describes the dog, "She was just adorable, and incredibly gentle, so gentle that she would take food from me, but wait until my three year old daughter placed it on the ground. It was as if she was worried she might frighten my daughter. She was very smart, gentle, sweet, and loving, and, most importantly, amazing with my kids. My children fell in love with her as much as I did. One night, I gave her some soup, and, after she finished, she gently jumped up on me, wrapped her paws around my neck and gave me a doggie "hug" as if to say "thank you!"--that's when I knew this dog was beyond sweet and we had to take her home! On Wednesday, Jennifer and her kids expected to see "Divi" on the beach but she never showed up.

# Please Help Us Find "Divi"

She asked around to see if anyone had seen the pup and found a couple who had spotted the dog walking with a group of women heading away from the Aruba Beach Club, towards the high-rise hotels. Jennifer and her kids spent the day walking up and down the beach, looking for "Divi" but, sadly, she was never seen. Jennifer just figured she'd be back because of all the love and great food she had received.

We hope you can help Jennifer. We believe she may have wandered by other hotels, so we are hoping that other hotel guests, or hotel security will help us find her and provide the "happy ending for the Mentas family's visit to One Happy Island." Please use the contact information below to let us know you have her, or you have seen her.

The family is offering a reward. Please be sure it is the same dog. For other island guests wanting to adopt, Aruba has several rescue groups (listed on the internet) that will help make it easy to take home an Aruban dog or cat.

Aruba is a rabies free island, so there is no quarantine required to take a dog or cat to the USA.

All that is needed is a health certificate from a local vet, and arrangements made with the airlines. The two rescue groups, Animal Relief Foundation Aruba (ARF) and Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) will help to arrange those things. It is extremely important once you decide to adopt the animal, to bring the dog to a vet and take it off of the beach right away. (Do NOT take the animal to the Aruba Animal Shelter. There is no room for it there.) Boarding for a dog or



cat is very affordable on Aruba, and while it is at the vet, it can have its health check and be taken care of until you are ready to leave Aruba. if you need help, ARA and ARF can both help you take the dog to the vet and to the airport. Life on the streets, or the beach, is a hard and short life, so adopting them is a wonderful option. The beach and restaurant dogs are wonderfully socialized and make incredible pets. The Aruban Cunucu Dog is very sweet, smart and athletic. They have become their own breed. We understand why so many guests on Aruba fall in love with the island dogs and adopt them. Please help this little dog and the Mentas family have a happy ending. If you see Divi, or you need help with adopting another animal, please contact:

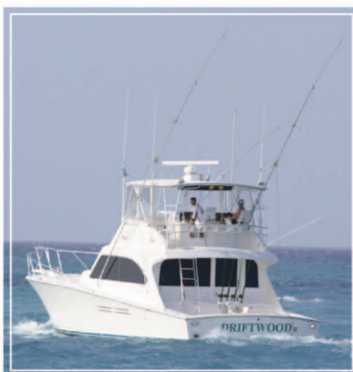
Adreina with Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) phone # 592 5130: ara@setarnet.aw.

Kathy with Animal Relief Foundation Aruba (ARF): tillie89@aol.com or Linda with Aruba Island Puppies: mydividog@yahoo.com.□

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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### Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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### Driftwood Restaurant

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[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

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*With a special Aruban menu*

## 'Libertador' Betico Croes is honored at CILO on January 25



ORANJESTAD - A special menu, consisting of typical Aruban specialties, honors the greatest Aruban politician of the island on January 25 at CILO City Lounge in the Renaissance Marketplace. This date is a national holiday, celebrating Betico Croes' birthday and all over the island festivities include folklore and games. At CILO the day is celebrated with an Aruban Beef Soup, Wahoo Tataki,

a whole Red Snapper in Crioyo Sauce and Pan Bati, a local pancake variety, Keshi Yena with chicken and Quesillo. The menu consists of mouthwatering options which should not be missed by anyone.

Keshi Yena is a rich, tasty combination of cheese, chicken, prunes and much more and it is beyond doubt the flagship of Aruba's cuisine. Quesillo has blown in from



Spain and Venezuela; it is sweet and syrupy and lovely as a dessert.

CILO will be decorated in style on January 25 and it will show old photographs on the many flat screens of the marina-view restaurant in downtown

Oranjestad. On the stage across from Café the Plaza, the Renaissance Marketplace puts on a musical show of Grupo di Betico, a very successful band of family members of Betico Croes, who died in November 1986. A folkloric

show by Folklor di Santa Cruz follows the performance of Grupo di Betico, which start at 7 pm. The ribbon dance, the 'baile di sinta', is going to be the highlight of the dance performance. □



# Palm Beach boasts authentic Mediterranean cuisine



appetizers. For main courses our traditional Moussaka is justly called, the best you will ever have, and the genuine Tunisian Couscous, loaded with merguez, chicken and lamb, is rivaled only by the Tenderloin, Lamb and Chicken kebabs. Casa Tua pays homage to



By **ARUBA TODAY**

**PALM BEACH** -- When we say Mediterranean cuisine, we mean the food from the adjacent nation-states sharing the shores of the Mediterranean, embracing many cultures and influenced by varied customs.

At Casa Tua Mediterranee, the menu offers a trip around that sunshiny, lively part of the world, without ever having to buy an airline ticket, starting at the Atlantic and traveling traverse Europe to Turkey, on to the Middle East and North Africa.

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Spanokopitakia, brick oven baked filo pastries filled with Greek cheese and spinach, famous Tzaziki, a yogurt and cucumber dip, and popular Babaganoush and Hummus, with authentic pita bread, are some of the most popular

provincial cooking with our Grilled Whole Red Snapper, flavored with herbs de Provence, and our Mussels, taste the way they're served in the port of Marseille. Our thin crust Italian Pizza, needs no introduction, as it has earned a huge following in both the other restaurants, Casa Tua Pizzeria and Casa Tua Barcelona.

To top off the authentic Mediterranean feast, the Oriental belly dancers entertain every night and you may complement the exotic evening with a flavored hookah pipe and endless new st le cocktails featuring Strawberry Field Mojito, and Bubble Royal Champagne Martin. Casa Tua is your-home-in-Aruba, a perfect spot for people who love to live, and love to eat and party.

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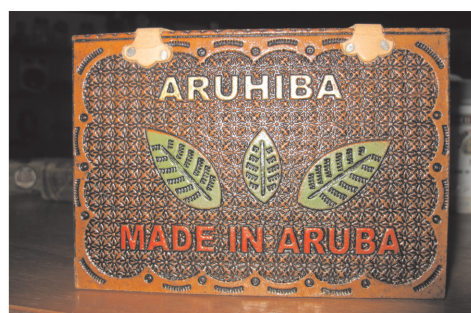
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**ORANJESTAD-** Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift



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# SETAR to host party for CCTA Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the location and dates for the 2011 Annual Meeting are set for Aruba. For the third time, the Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino will be the site of a CCTA Annual Meeting, with the assistance of host system SETAR. The 2011 meeting will begin with the traditional Golf Tournament and Welcome Cocktail Party on Tuesday, January 25, and conclude in the early evening on Thursday, January 27. On-site registration starts on Monday, January 24.

The hotel is providing excellent in-season rates for both its facilities, the Marina Hotel and the Ocean Suites. Welcome "Carnival" Cocktail Party on January 25 is being sponsored by host cable and telecommunications operator SETAR of Aruba. The 2011 Annual Meeting corresponds with Aruba's Carnival, which is an added bonus for all attendees! Carnival is a truly Caribbean experience.

## Show Exhibitors

The Exhibit Hall is continuing to fill up, with more than 70 companies now committed to booth or tabletop space on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 26 and 27.

The Caribbean Cable TV Association was founded in 1983 by three pioneers in the cable television industry in the region: John S. Cardenas, general manager of Cable TV Company of Greater San Juan, Inc.; Hector Gonzalez, owner and president of Teleponce Corp., and Randolph H. Knight, owner and president of Caribbean Communications Corp. The

three formed the organization in order to foster and promote the development of cable television service in the U.S. regions and independent nations or territories of the Caribbean.

CCTA was launched with just nine members: five cable operators – Cable TV Company of Greater San Juan, Caguas Cable System, Inc., Caribbean Communications, Community Cablevision of Puerto Rico, and Teleponce – and four vendors – Home Box Office, Inc., Oak Communications, Inc., RMS Electronics, Inc., and Theta-Com CATV. The first Annual Membership Meeting was held on March 5, 1984, in Puerto Rico.

Since that modest beginning the CCTA has grown to 122 members: 29 cable operators (five in the U.S. regions and 23 in other areas of the Caribbean), and 93 program, hardware and software suppliers from around the world. Member cable operators serve a combined total of over 800,000 subscribers. The Association holds an Annual Meeting each year, bringing together cable operators and vendors to discuss trends in the industry, devise solutions to common problems, and provide a forum for information exchange and education.

As a non-profit association based in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the CCTA established the Community Charities Program which donates an average of \$10,000 per year, \$750 to \$1,000 each

to different service agencies nominated by its member cable operators. The Association's members feel a strong commitment to giving back to the communities that have supported them. Since its inception, the Community Charities Program has donated more than \$208,000 to Caribbean-based charitable organizations.

Following a series of major hurricanes, the Board of Directors voted to establish a disaster relief program for employees of member systems. Funds have been distributed to those individuals who were most affected by these storms.

Furthering the standards of its members, the CCTA holds training seminars every year on customer and technical service, marketing and management techniques. Many of these seminars have been produced in conjunction with the CTAM Caribbean chapter and the Caribbean chapter of the Society of Cable Television Engineers. In response to recent trends in the industry, the Association formally changed its name to the Caribbean Cable and Telecommunications Association in 2002.

The CCTA is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of seven members elected from among the cable system membership and two members from among the associated membership of program, hardware and software suppliers. All board members are elected at the Annual Membership Meeting held in January of each year. The



Association has retained and telecommunications the services of a part-time industry, the CCTA will Executive Director who continue to represent the tasks of the rapidly growing needs of its various members, and actively involved and understand, and organization. Whatever encourage the highest the future of the cable standards of operation. □

## Aruba to attend Travel shows in England



ORANJESTAD - Britons looking for some inspiration for their next holiday can pay a visit to a popular event set to take place in London and Birmingham this year.

Destinations: The Holiday and Travel Show will be held at Earls Court in London from 3 to 6 February before heading to the Birmingham NEC from 4 to 6 March.

Presented by the Times, the event will offer information and advice for people planning all sorts of getaways, from cultural breaks in Rome to adventurous escapes in Canada. The range of exhibitors for the show's 2011 outings will include promotional agencies representing Aruba, China and Cuba in London, while Continental Airlines, the Croatian National Tourist Office and the Cyprus Tourism Organization will be among those represented in Birmingham.

Visitors will also be able to hear from a range of celebrity speakers, with Ben Fogle, Michaela Strachan and Bill Oddie due to appear at Earls Court and Mark Carwardine, Simon Reeve and Ben Anderson set to share some of their travel stories at the NEC. □





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## THE CIVILITY WARS

Here's how lacking in civility we are today: We have spent the past two weeks debating what civility is, and why the people we don't like don't have it.

Look up the meaning of the word "civility" and you will find that it is rooted in the notion of being part of a city. In our urban age, that should make civility fairly common. But because we know that common sense isn't, we also know that civility isn't exactly overflowing, even in a nation that considers itself, after the Book of Matthew (as adapted by John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, who both seized on the simile), as a city upon a hill. Let's first stipulate that politics as practiced since the United States became a nation has been largely nonviolent but seldom confectionery or kind. There was the vicious campaign of 1800, the derision directed at Abraham Lincoln, the slur-filled struggle between James G. Blaine and Grover Cleveland in 1884, the bitter battle between Al Gore and George W. Bush a decade ago. No doubt the presence of struggle and battle in the last sentence struck you as being completely unremarkable, which helps prove my point. We're used to martial references in our politics. The word campaign originally meant a military operation. U.S. politics ain't beanbag (the credit for that insight goes to the great Finley Peter Dunne). It ain't kind, either.

And yet pugilists (there I go again, as Reagan would say) on both sides prize civility, claim it for their own, deny its presence in their opponents and salute random acts of it, which in some ways only underlines how rare civility is.

For a generation, commentators, myself included, have celebrated the wonderful relationships cultivated by former Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., first with longtime minority leader Bob Michel and then with Reagan. The mythology is that O'Neill loved to share a lazy afternoon on the golf links with Michel and an early-evening pop with Reagan. The work-hard, play-hard narrative is that they fought like animals during the day and relaxed like pals after hours. These myths didn't arise from nothing. There were in fact golf outings and the clinking of glasses -- and staff relationships that have no equal today. Last week Chris Matthews, a former O'Neill aide, celebrated the speaker-president relationship and quoted Reagan as saying, "The speaker says that here in Washington we're all friends after 6."

I'm not sure that means very much. Being chummy in private, where it doesn't matter, but churlish in public, where it does, is no recipe for civility in public affairs.

In truth, the Democrats of that period ran a tyrannical House, where Republican privileges and prerogatives were severely limited. For all the time he spent on the fairways with O'Neill, Michel was always a supplicant, not a political equal until Michel had a semblance of a working majority because so many conservative Southern Democrats, known as Boll Weevils, were voting with the Republicans on tax and budget matters. □

## What does President Obama really believe?

New York – Quick quiz: In one sentence, describe FDR's political philosophy. Good, now summarize Reaganism. Pretty easy, right?

OK, do the same for President Obama. Still thinking? Don't worry, Mr. Obama is, too. And that's bad news for all of us. Because no matter how you feel about Obama, his lack of clear philosophical values is not only a political problem for Democrats but a moral problem for America.

Ad hoc balancing It didn't start like this. Obama surfed into the White House on a wave of seeming principle: change, bipartisanship, reason, deliberation, pragmatism. What we didn't realize is that all these concepts are methodological. They concern the process of forming public policy. But they are not bedrock principles upon which we can orient the ends of government.

They are so general that they provide little analytical or moral traction. Who objects to deliberation and evidence-based policy? Well, maybe George W. Bush, which is why Obama's "change" narrative worked so well in the election. But since his inauguration, Obama's methodological political theory has proved thin and sometimes incoherent. He will never support tax cuts for the rich, until he will. He criticizes Bush's expansive view of presidential war powers, then adopts it. The list goes on.

It's not that he breaks his policy promises more than other politicians. It's not that he seeks compromise a virtue. It's not even that his policies are wrongheaded. It's the fact that when he compromises, when he reaches policy conclusions, there's no sense that it derives from anything other than ad hoc balancing.

There is no well of enduring principle upon which he seems to draw. Even if he's a pragmatist, eschewing universal principles in favor of context-specific values and concerns, we still don't know what those temporal values and concerns are, or why he believes in them. So far he's the piecemeal president. He has failed to justify even his signature policy achievement, health-care reform, beyond appeals to saving the country money. Aspects of the reform surely will, but not the part where we extend health coverage to 30 million people. There are good, if complex moral arguments to justify this. But the most we hear from Obama are heartbreaking anecdotes about sick people without coverage. Political debate is rarely about facts and results alone. It's also a matter of moral principle. Democrats seem to have forgotten this. Many Republicans have not, espousing the supposedly urgent virtues of a Reaganesque, antigovernment philosophy daily, if often hypocritically.

Political costs Within our sclerotic system, Obama's philosophy-free politics seems appealing. It can make the task of uniting disparate interests easier, leading to speedier legislation. But the lack of a backbone also

makes for brittle policy achievements; hence the GOP push for repeal.

It also exposes Obama to a flank attack, whereby Republicans highlight aspects of policies like health-care reform and the stimulus package and declare him a rabid socialist or even a proto-totalitarian. Obama hasn't clarified his own brand the larger theory that encapsulates his policies so such attacks hit their mark harder than they otherwise should.

In 2009, The New York Times asked Obama: "Is there a one word name for your philosophy? If you're not a socialist, are you a liberal? Are you progressive?." Obama's answer, "No, I'm not going to engage in that," underscored his fear of labels. That fear is curbing his ability to initiate a new era of liberalism. To create a lasting movement, Obama, like Reagan and FDR, must set down principles that apply to changing circumstances. His thin methodological principles are not up to the task.

Withered moral capacities When they hide behind the cloak of pragmatism or economics, Obama and his fellow Democrats muddle what's often really at stake the values questions. This stunts our public deliberation, making it less honest and productive. Long term, our moral knowledge and capacity atrophies.

Politics is inescapably philosophical, which means politicians in a democracy must be rigorous exponents of their core convictions. Yet many Democrats haven't engaged moral concepts seriously in public since Bill Clinton became president. And Republicans, unchecked by Democrats, have largely substituted reflexive ideological talking points for the hard work of wrestling with philosophical concepts. The result is that we are left on all sides with burning commitments to values like freedom, equality, and personal responsibility without the ability to debate those values with understanding and maturity. The search for common moral ground is imperative. Yet Obama's nostrum, to ignore the values debate and focus on evidence-based pragmatic points, has not promoted this.

A president with a weak sense of his own principles weakens our sense of our principles. We begin to lose our national identity, and our political system loses legitimacy. If we are a community that merely aggregates narrow, sectarian interests or simply maximizes "what works" in a pragmatic fashion, we aren't much of a community at all, and requirements that we sacrifice for fellow citizens ring hollow. The more our laws derive from moral principles ideally, ones that reflect broad consensus the more legitimate their demands, as philosopher Ronald Dworkin argues.

Obama's presidency is still young. Its success depends on "Obamanism" meaning something clear, bold, and convincing for future generations. For a nation built on common principle, not common blood, requires its leaders to have a coherent political theory. □





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# Missing boat with 5 Americans found in Philippines

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine coast guard rescuers found five missing Americans on Sunday aboard their sailboat reported lost en route from Guam. All those aboard are fine.

A search ship guided by a spotter plane located and boarded the 38-foot catamaran The Pineapple after it was spotted off the southern island of Dinagat, coast guard chief Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo said. The rescuers are escorting the vessel to its original destination on central Cebu island.

"They're all in fine health," Tamayo said of four men and a woman on board The Pineapple who included a Filipino-American in the U.S. Air Force. Their identities and hometowns have not been released.

"They apparently had engine trouble while in rough seas," Tamayo told The Associated Press, adding that he was

awaiting other details.

U.S. authorities have been informed about the discovery and were in touch with Philippine officials to provide help to the Americans, U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Rebecca Thompson said.

Relatives of the Americans contacted the U.S. Coast Guard saying that the catamaran left Guam on Jan. 6 but had not reached its destination on Cebu Island, Tamayo said.

Guam, a U.S. territory, is about 1,400 miles east of Cebu, where heavy rains and rough seas have been reported in recent weeks.

Lt. j.g. Justin Valentino, a search and rescue coordinator for the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam, said that while the weather makes predictions difficult, the journey was supposed to take seven to 10 days.

Tamayo said on Friday that the U.S. Coast Guard requested a search although it was not clear whether The Pineapple had reached

Philippine waters. The U.S. Coast Guard was sending an HC-130 Hercules to join the operation.

The Philippines dispatched two aircraft to scour the waters off central and southern islands, and coast guard detachments and passing ships were alerted to be on the lookout for the sailboat, Tamayo said.

A Philippine coast guard plane spotted the catamaran on Saturday but could not identify the vessel due to poor visibility. The plane returned to the area after the weather cleared on Sunday and confirmed it was the missing sailboat, Tamayo said.

Many Philippine provinces, particularly in the east, have been hit by landslides and floods and have experienced rough seas amid unusually heavy rains since late December. At least 68 people have died and 26 others remain missing from the stormy weather set off by a cold front, disaster response officials said.



In this image made from video and released by the Philippine coast guard, American occupants are on board the 38-foot catamaran The Pineapple as they wait to be rescued off the southern island of Dinagat, Philippines, on Sunday Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

The coast guard rescued trouble last week due to the 260 of 277 people aboard inclement weather. Fifteen nearly a dozen boats that remain missing while two sank, overturned or ran into drowned, the officials said. □

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# Israeli inquiry: Flotilla raid, blockade legal

**JOSEF FEDERMAN****Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli panel on Sunday cleared the military and government of any wrongdoing during last year's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound international flotilla, but the finding appeared unlikely to repair damage to Israel's standing.

Nine pro-Palestinian activists, eight Turkish citizens and a Turkish American, were killed as Israeli commandos boarded one of the ships in the flotilla, the Mavi Marmara, last May 31. The report said the armed defense of Israel's maritime blockade of the Hamas-ruled coastal strip was justified under international law.

A wave of international condemnation of the raid forced Israel to ease the blockade.

The incident damaged relations with Turkey and led the U.N. chief to order an

international investigation. Turkey swiftly condemned Sunday's report, saying it was "surprised, appalled and dismayed."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the inquiry.

"I hope all those who rushed to judgment against Israel and its soldiers will read this report and learn the truth about what happened," Netanyahu said. "The truth is that our soldiers were defending our country — and defending their very lives."

The nearly 300-page report echoed an earlier military investigation that faulted the planning and execution of the operation. Even so, it said the blockade of Gaza and the raid were legal and justified.

"The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and



**Former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Jacob Turkel heads a press conference of the Turkel commission, an inquiry set up by the Israeli Government to investigate the Gaza flotilla raid, in Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.**

*Associated Press*

physical injuries," read the report. Nonetheless, "the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law."

The flotilla aimed to bring

attention to the blockade of Gaza, which Israel imposed after Hamas militants captured an Israeli soldier in 2006 and tightened after Hamas seized control of the territory the

following year.

Israel said the blockade was needed to prevent Hamas, an armed group that has fired thousands of rockets at Israel, from building up its arsenal. Critics have noted the blockade did little to weaken Hamas or halt weapons smuggling, while causing widespread economic hardship and shortages of foods and other basic items.

Israeli forces were sent to commandeer the ships before dawn after the flotilla ignored radio warnings to turn back and refused an offer to dock at an Israeli port and transfer humanitarian aid into Gaza overland. One of the ships radioed to the Israelis to "go back to Auschwitz," according to a military recording cited in the report.

Five small ships were commandeered without incident, but soldiers rappelling from helicopters onto the deck of the Marmara, with some 600 passengers on board, were attacked by several dozen activists armed with bars, slingshots and knives as they landed on deck one by one, according to video footage released by the military.

The Israelis, caught off guard, were beaten, and some were thrown onto a lower deck. According to Sunday's report, two soldiers were shot, apparently with weapons wrested from the Israelis. □

## Thousands march at Belgian unity rally



**A woman shows Belgium's bilingual motto: 'Union Creates Power', during a rally in Brussels, Sunday Jan. 23, 2011.**

*Associated Press***SLOBODAN LEKIC****Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters marched through the Belgian capital Sunday in support of national unity and to demand that the rival political groupings finally form a coalition after seven months without a government.

Organizers said the peaceful rally in downtown Brussels — the seat of the European Union — is also meant to promote solidarity among the country's Flemish and Walloon communities and to reject nationalism.

Police said between 20,000 and 30,000 people took part in the demonstration called by a group of university students who say they're fed up with the political deadlock.

"We're sending a clear message to the political leaders that we want them to form a government," said Felix De Clerck, one of the organizers.

"We are sick and tired of the enduring political impasse," said Thomas Decreus, another organizer. He said the protest showed "the people can act where politicians fail: i.e. working together

across the language barrier" that slices Belgium in half.

The demonstration — the result of a Facebook campaign under the banner "Shame. No government, great country" — was the second of its kind in just over three years. On Nov. 18, 2007, around 35,000 people marched through the capital to vent their anger about a political deadlock that by then was preventing the formation of a government for 161 days.

Like in 2007, Sunday's protest led demonstrators — Francophones and Dutch-speakers — to a vast stone arch in the Cinquenaire park. The arch marks Belgium's independence from the Netherlands in 1830.

Political parties representing Belgium's two communities have been unable to form a coalition since parliamentary elections last June — a record period of deadlock in postwar Europe.

Politicians have been trying unsuccessfully to broker a new constitution with increased regional autonomy for the 6 million Dutch-speaking Flemings and 4.5 million French-speaking Walloons.

The deadlock has sparked fear that Flanders could secede from the union formed in 1830.

Positions in Flanders have hardened over the years, bringing to the fore the center-right N-VA nationalist party headed by Bart De Wever. He is negotiating on forming a government with the socialist PS party, the dominant political party in Wallonia.

In a reference to De Wever, several demonstrators carried pictures of cartoon character Bart Simpson with his face crossed out. Others carried signs saying "Separation? Not In Our Name," and "Less Bla-Bla, More Results."

Many carried umbrellas, hats, shawls and other items in the black, gold and red colors of the Belgian flag. "What do we want? We want A government," they chanted.

Since the elections, the country has been run by a caretaker government led by Prime Minister Yves Leterme. But that government only has a limited remit and, as the euro currency tries to weather a deepening crisis, international investors are looking unkindly at the political stalemate that hamstringing the nation and prevents it from taking decisive action. □



# Chavez supporters, foes stage anniversary rallies

**CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER**

**Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Allies and adversaries of President Hugo Chavez took to the streets of the capital by the thousands Sunday, staging rival demonstrations to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of Venezuela's democracy.

Opposition supporters gathered along an avenue in eastern Caracas and chanted anti-government slogans while waving red-yellow-and-blue Venezuelan flags and banners labeling Chavez a despot. Many of the president's critics expressed concerns that Chavez is amassing power and cracking down on dissent.

"In a country where dissidence is constantly attacked, there's no true democracy," said Virginia Zamora, who helped organize the anti-Chavez rally. Chavez's supporters staged their own demonstration to defend their leader, disputing claims that the former paratrooper popularly known as "El Comandante" is becoming increasingly authoritarian as he attempts to steer this politically divided South American

country toward socialism.

"Chavez has demonstrated again and again that he's a democrat. It's absurd that some think he's a dictator," said Alejandra Gonzalez, a single mother who supports Chavez for opening state-run markets that sell food at cut-rate prices and sending Cuban doctors into the slums to help the poor.

Gonzalez, who gathered outside the presidential palace with thousands of other government backers to listen to a speech by Chavez, scoffed at claims that her favorite politician is trampling democratic rights or intends to follow the example of communist Cuba's former leader, Fidel Castro, a mentor who has become one of Chavez's closest foreign allies. Chavez proudly noted that he and his allies have repeatedly defeated opposition candidates at the polls for more than a decade. "They accuse me of being a dictator," he said. "They must be crazy." Chavez said he hopes to win re-election in 2012 and govern until 2019, when he would turn 65 years old.

"I'd be an old man," Chavez told the crowd. Jan. 23 is the anniversary of the overthrow of Gen. Marcos Perez Jimenez,

Venezuela's last dictator. Since Chavez took office in 1999, it has become a date that underscores Venezuela's political divisions. Some government opponents have likened Chavez to Perez Jimenez, saying that both attempted to silence the news media, used the judiciary to jail adversaries and violated basic freedoms such as protest rights. "The big lesson from Jan. 23 is that we must fight for democracy and freedom every day," said opposition lawmaker Maria Corina Machado.

Most Venezuelans condemn Perez Jimenez's rule, but some elders praise him as an effective administrator and leader who diligently maintained public order while modernizing the South American country with major highways, bridges and urban residential complexes.

Anti-Chavez protests also took



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, front, peers during a rally marking a new anniversary of the overthrow of Venezuela's last dictator Gen. Marcos Perez Jimenez, in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

*Associated Press*

place in several cities abroad, including Miami, Madrid and Bogota, Colombia. "Democracy was lost in Venezuela a

long time ago," said Marcos Ferreyra, a former Venezuelan soldier who demonstrated along with 300 others in Miami. □

## Hundreds protest arrest of Yemeni woman activist

**AHMED AL HAJ**

**Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni police have arrested a woman activist for leading anti-government protests, setting off a second day of street demonstrations.

Police used tear gas and batons to disperse hundreds of students, activists and lawmakers who demonstrated in the capital Sanaa to demand the release of Tawakul Abdel-Salam Karman, who was arrested early Sunday. Interior Minister Mouthar al-Masri said on state television Sunday that people have the right to express their views but demonstrations, gatherings and marches should be staged within the boundaries of the law.

Karman is a senior member



In this photo taken Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, Yemeni activist Tawakul Karman chants slogans calling on President Ali Abdullah Saleh to leave the government and follow Tunisian ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali into exile during a protest in Sanaa, Yemen.

*Associated Press*

of the opposition Islamic fundamentalist Islah Party. □

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<div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">BETICO DAY SPECIAL BINGO</div> <small>STARTING AT 2 PM</small>	<div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">X2</div> <b>DOUBLE THE POINTS</b> <small>STARTING AT 4:30 PM - 11 PM</small>	<div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">NOS LIBERTADOR BETICO CROES FREE SLOT TOURNAMENT</div> <small>STARTING AT 8 PM</small>	<div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">ENTERTAINMENT CAHA DI ORGEL</div> <small>STARTING AT 10 AM - 2 PM</small>

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# Schiavone wins longest women's major match

Italy's Francesca Schiavone celebrates a point win during her fourth round match against Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011. Schiavone won 6-4 1-6 16-14.

Associated Press  
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## SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, January 24, 2011

### New No. 2



Germany's Martin Kaymer holds the trophy after winning the Abu Dhabi Golf Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for the third time in four years, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press  
Page B6

### Armstrong silent as he ends international career

STEVE McMORRAN

AP Sports Writer

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)

— Lance Armstrong's final bike ride in an international race was decidedly low key, and so was his muted response afterwards as he dodged the now standard questions about lingering doping allegations.

Armstrong spent his time riding in the back half of the peloton for most of Sunday's last stage of the Tour Down Under, crossing the line as the 103rd rider and finishing 67th overall in what he says was his last race outside the United States. He was more than six minutes behind overall winner Cameron Meyer.

After accepting a gift on stage for his support of the race, Armstrong then brushed past reporters without addressing claims raised by a report in Sports Illustrated this week



American Lance Armstrong, who rides for Team Radio Shack, waves as he walks on stage after the South Australia premier thanked him for his support in the Tour Down Under cycling event at Adelaide, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

— an issue he has refused to talk about all week.

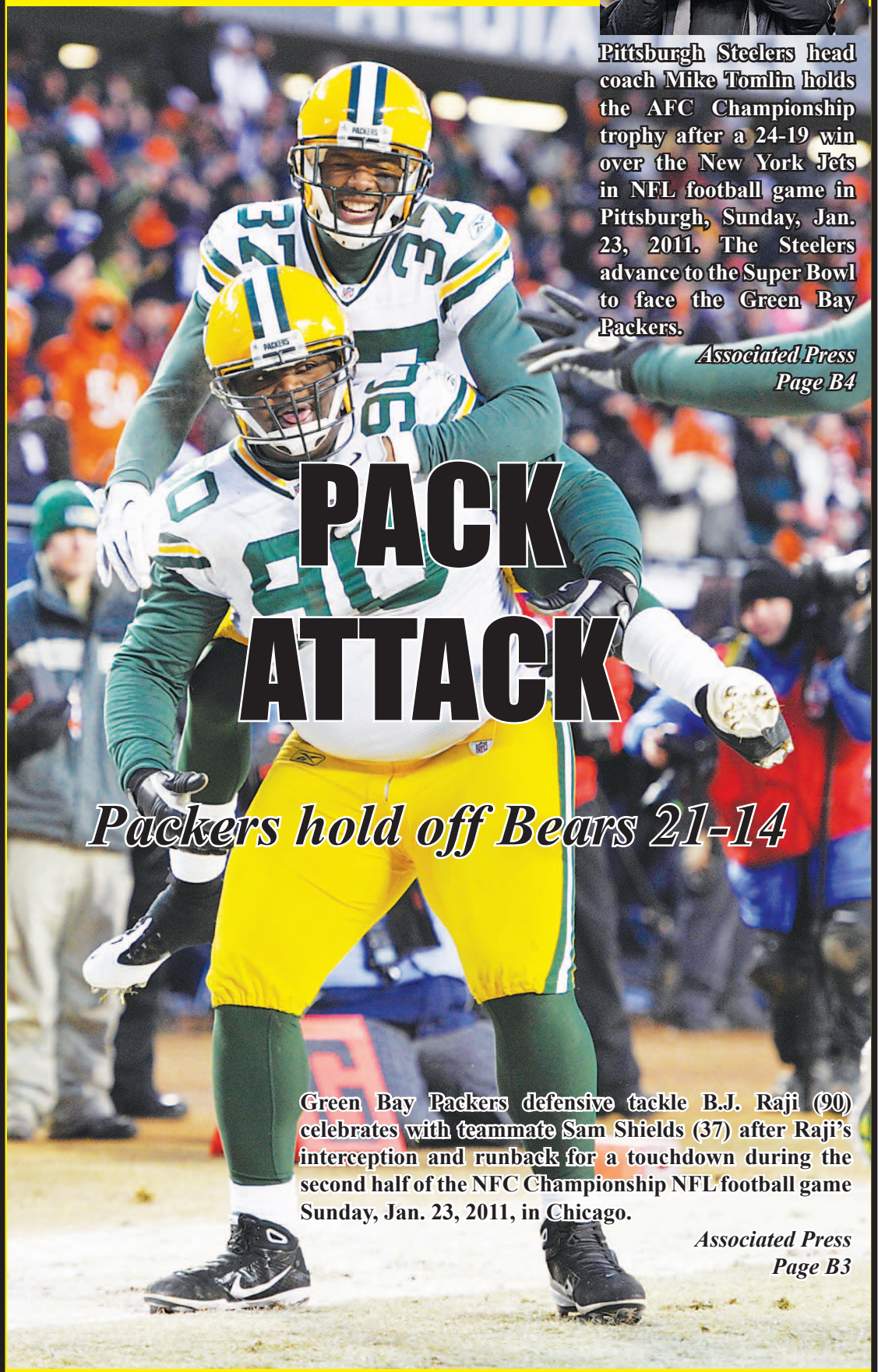
Continued on Page B5

### Packers, Steelers to meet in Super Bowl



Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin holds the AFC Championship trophy after a 24-19 win over the New York Jets in NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011. The Steelers advance to the Super Bowl to face the Green Bay Packers.

Associated Press  
Page B4



### PACK ATTACK

Packers hold off Bears 21-14

Green Bay Packers defensive tackle B.J. Raji (90) celebrates with teammate Sam Shields (37) after Raji's interception and runback for a touchdown during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, in Chicago.

Associated Press  
Page B3



# Jhonattan Vegas wins Hope Classic in playoff



Jhonattan Vegas of Venezuela, reacts after victory on the second playoff hole on the Palmer Private course at PGA West during the final round of the Bob Hope Classic PGA golf tournament in La Quinta, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011. Vegas made this 13-foot par putt on the second playoff hole to hold off Gary Woodland for his first PGA Tour victory.

*Associated Press*

**GREG BEACHAM,**  
AP Sports Writer

LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Jhonattan Vegas made a 13-foot par putt on the second playoff hole to

win the Bob Hope Classic on Sunday, holding off Gary Woodland for his first PGA Tour victory.

The first Venezuelan to win a PGA Tour event,

the rookie won in just his fifth tour start despite hitting his tee shot in the water on the 92nd hole of the five-day tournament. Vegas capitalized when Woodland made two poor chip shots, pumping his fist in celebration after his putt fell.

“It’s something you dream about, but you have to make it happen,” Vegas said.

Vegas and Woodland eliminated defending champion Bill Haas with birdies on the first playoff hole after all three finished the final round at 27-under 333. Vegas is the third straight player to get his first PGA Tour victory at the Hope, joining Pat Perez and Haas.

Vegas’s victory should give a boost to his desire to revive the sport in his native country, where it’s largely unpopular and criticized by President Hugo Chavez.

Playing one group apart, Haas and Vegas both

missed short putts on the final regulation hole. A few minutes after Haas botched a 6-footer for birdie, Vegas couldn’t connect from 9 feet, making his only bogey of the final day.

Vegas and Woodland closed with 3-under 69s and Haas shot a 66.

Ryan Palmer (64) was fourth at 26 under.

Woodland and Vegas shared the lead after each of the final three rounds, and Woodland got into the playoff with a birdie on the final regulation hole. The former college basketball player also was seeking his first PGA Tour win.

With the light fading rapidly behind the San Jacinto Mountains in the Palm Springs area, Vegas shook his head in dismay after dropping his tee shot in the water on the second playoff hole — but Woodland showed a bigger case of nerves with the win in sight. His approach shot landed in a bunker, and his sand shot trickled to the opposite side of the green.

After his drop, Vegas confidently put his exceptional approach shot behind the pin before holing a \$900,000 putt.

Vegas was followed by his father, who got his son

into the game while selling food and tending a nine-hole course in a remote oil-drilling camp along the Orinoco River.

Chavez regards golf as a pastime of the rich, and the government has closed six courses in the past seven years. Vegas expressed a desire to speak with Chavez, hoping to change the president’s mind about the sport that prompted him to move to Houston at 17. Vegas eventually attended the University of Texas and played the Nationwide Tour.

While Vegas saved pars on the 15th and 16th holes with solid putts, Woodland appeared unable to make up for his early mistakes until he pulled back within one stroke on the 16th, putting a 103-yard shot from the fairway within 4 feet for an easy birdie.

At almost the same moment Vegas barely missed a 26-foot birdie putt on the 17th green, Haas missed his birdie putt on the 18th. Woodland then missed a 4½-foot par putt, falling two strokes behind Vegas heading to the 18th.

Vegas’ approach shot on the 18th was 47 feet short, and he failed to two-putt to victory. □

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## NFL Roundup

# Packers beat Bears 21-14 to win NFC title

CHICAGO (AP) — Aaron Rodgers ran for a touchdown and made a saving tackle, B.J. Raji returned an interception for a score and Sam Shields had two interceptions to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 21-14 win over the Chicago Bears in the NFC championship game Sunday.

The victory sends the Packers (13-6) to the Super Bowl in Dallas on Feb. 6 to meet the winner of the New York Jets-Pittsburgh Steelers AFC title game later Sunday.

Raji's TD return in the final quarter put the Packers up 21-7. Green Bay then withstood a rally led by Chicago third-string quarterback Caleb Hanie. He led two fourth-quarter TD drives, but Chicago's last chance to tie the game ended in the final minute when Shields came up with his second interception in Packers' territory.

Bears starter Jay Cutler hurt his knee and played only one series in the third quarter. Todd Collins replaced him but was ineffective. Chicago ends the season at 12-6.

The Packers won this 182nd meeting of the NFL's most played rivalry and will be playing for the Vince Lombardi Trophy — named for their former coach — in their fifth Super Bowl.

Rodgers and James Starks had short scoring runs in the opening half as the Packers built a 14-0 lead.

In the third quarter, Rodgers went back to work, connecting with Jordy Nelson for 21 yards and Greg Jennings for 20. After a pass interference call on Chicago's Tim Jennings, the Packers had a first down at the 8.

But on third-and-6, Bears star linebacker Brian Urlacher intercepted a pass by Rodgers and had just the QB to beat for

a long TD return. But Rodgers got in Urlacher's way and grabbed just enough of his legs to pull him down at the Bears 45.

The Bears couldn't muster much of anything offensively. Cutler was having a rough afternoon, going 6 for 14 with 80 yards and an interception before Chicago turned the offense to the little-used Collins. It wasn't immediately apparent when or how Cutler got hurt. Collins lasted two series before he was replaced by third-stringer Hanie.

Rodgers started where he left off last week against Atlanta, throwing passes of 22 and 26 yards to Jennings to open an 84-yard drive on the opening series of the game. He later hit Nelson with a 22-yarder to the Bears 2, then ran in from the 1 on a bootleg after withstanding a hard hit from safety Danieal Manning.

And just like that, the Packers were ahead in the first four minutes.

Taking the ball at the Bears 44 after forcing Brad Maynard to put out of his end zone, the Packers moved in again early in the second.

Rodgers got off a nice dump pass under pressure to Brandon Jackson and the running back made a beauty of a fake to go right past Urlacher and gain 16 yards. Starks then broke off a 12-yard run before Rodgers found Nelson for a 15-yard gain to the 4.

The rookie Starks carried right and weaved his way over the goal line, putting the Packers ahead 14-0 with 11:13 left in the half.

Rodgers was 10 of 15 for 156 yards and an interception in the first half.

The Bears got their offense moving midway through the second quarter but still couldn't score. Cutler had a



**Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) scores a touchdown past Chicago Bears safety Danieal Manning (38) during the first half of the NFC Championship NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, in Chicago.**

*Associated Press*

24-yard pass to Johnny Knox and then found Chester Taylor for 12 more, carrying to the Packers 30, their deepest penetration of the game.

But the drive stalled after a completion was wiped out by a holding penalty and two carries by Cutler. Instead of trying a long field goal, the Bears punted again and Maynard's kick went over the goal line into the end zone.

Rodgers couldn't find an open receiver on second down and took off for a 25-yard gain to the Bears 45. Chicago's defense dug in and stopped Starks on a third-and-1, forcing a Packers punt.

Shields forced a Cutler fumble with just under two minutes to go — the Bears' Matt Forte recovered — but once again Chicago had to punt. □

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# Big D: Steelers beat Jets 24-19 for AFC title

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

**PITTSBURGH** — The Pittsburgh Steelers found a fitting way to shut down the New York Jets' season.

What started with "Hard Knocks," ended with hard knocks.

For the third time in six seasons, Terrible Towels will twirl at the Super Bowl. The Steelers silenced Rex Ryan's wild bunch with a fumble return for a touchdown and a goal-line stand in a 24-19 victory for the AFC championship Sunday. They will face Green Bay in Dallas in two weeks.

Look out Big D, here comes another Big D — in black and gold, and with an unmatched history of carrying off the Lombardi Trophy.

You can bet that unit led by James Harrison, which shut down the Jets' comeback in the fourth quarter, will test Aaron Rodgers. That overwhelming defense set the tone for most of a frigid night at Heinz Field to end the Jets' stunning postseason run. Ryan slammed down his headset when Antonio Brown, also a hero last week, caught a pass for a first down that allowed



**Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) beats New York Jets linebacker Bryan Thomas (58) and defensive tackle Sione Pouha (91) on a 2-yard touchdown run during the first half of the AFC championship NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.**

Pittsburgh to hang on and run out the clock.

And the Steelers (14-4) will challenge the Packers' defense with a versatile attack led by running back Rashard Mendenhall and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

The Steelers ended the Jets' season with a dominant first half for a 24-3 edge. Mendenhall had 95 of his 121 yards and a touchdown.

"We knew we were going to have a chance to run the ball well," Mendenhall said. "The offensive line, they controlled the line of scrimmage all game."

Roethlisberger has moved on from a four-game suspension at the beginning of the season to take Pittsburgh to its eighth Super Bowl; the Steelers own the most titles, six. He scrambled time and again for key gains, often against shoddy tackling.

At game's end, he kneeled on the field, his face buried in an AFC championship T-shirt.

The cocky Jets seemed to have left everything they had in New England last Sunday. There was little trash talking all week and even less fire early in their biggest game since winning the championship 42 years ago. They haven't been back to the Super Bowl.

The Steelers are regulars, including titles for the 2005 and 2008 teams, both led by Roethlisberger and a

fierce defense sparked by playmaking safety Troy Polamalu.

Polamalu, his hair pouring from under his helmet as the black-and-gold signature towels flowed throughout Heinz Field, didn't have to do a whole lot this time. Not with the way his teammates whipped the Jets at the line of scrimmage before a spirited New York surge in the second half.

And too often, New York's defense was like a swinging gate that Roethlisberger and Mendenhall ran through with ease.

New York (13-6) failed for the fourth time in the AFC title game since 1969, when the Jets won perhaps the most significant of all Super Bowls. It was a devastating finish, particularly after the Jets beat Peyton Manning and the Colts, then Tom Brady and the Patriots on the road to get to Pittsburgh.

Asked if he would change anything about this season, Ryan said "I would change the outcome of this game and that's the only thing I would change. We don't need to

apologize to anybody. We'll be back, you'll see."

The Steelers snapped New York's hopes of making the Super Bowl a sixth-seed spectacular; the Packers are the NFC's No. 6 seed.

Coach Mike Tomlin had his Steelers eager for the fight from the outset, while Ryan's guys were flat until it was too late. The Jets did get a 45-yard TD pass from Mark Sanchez to Santonio Holmes — the hero of Pittsburgh's Super Bowl victory two years ago — and a safety after Pittsburgh's goal-line stand.

But the early hole was too deep, even after a 4-yard TD pass to Jerricho Cotchery made it 24-19 with 3:06 remaining. The Jets never got the ball back.

Pittsburgh set the early tone with a 66-yard march that took up the first nine minutes, with Roethlisberger displaying his scrambling skills on several plays, including a key 12-yard run on third-and-12. Mendenhall reached the ball over the goal line from the 1, the final of a 15-play drive in which the Steelers pushed around Ryan's pride and joy. But Pittsburgh also lost outstanding rookie center Maurkice Pouncey with an ankle injury, leaving it with just one backup offensive lineman.

It was the Jets who were struggling to block, though. And catch, with the usually sure-handed Cotchery making a key third-down drop.

Or tackle. Mendenhall found seams to the left, right or up the middle. His 35-yard sprint in the second quarter led to Shaun Suisham's 20-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead that was insurmountable the way the Jets were whiffing.

It became 17-0 as Roethlisberger, who was not prosecuted after being accused in March of the sexual assault of a 20-year-old college student, scooted into the end zone from the 2. Just 47 seconds later, Ike Taylor sacked Sanchez, forcing a fumble that William Gay ran 22 yards for a 24-0 lead. □

## Vegas: Green Bay slight favorite to win Super Bowl

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Sports books in Nevada have made Green Bay a slight favorite in the Super Bowl over Pittsburgh based on the Packers' popularity among bettors during the past few weeks.

The Glantz-Culver line has made the Packers an early 2 1/2-point favorite and put the game's total score at 45 1/2 points for the Feb. 6 game in Arlington, Texas.

Odds maker Andrew Patterson of Las Vegas Sports Consultants said Sunday night that the firm made the Packers a 1 1/2-point favorite over the Steelers to try to encourage action on both teams.

Jay Kornegay, chief of the Las Vegas Hilton's sports book, says his book made the Packers a 2-point favorite and quickly moved the line also to 2 1/2 points as bettors gambled on Green Bay.

The Super Bowl is the most popular betting game of the year. Nevada casinos won almost \$6.9 million on last year's game as bettors wagered \$82.7 million. □



# Vonn skis through knee pain for another win

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP)—Lindsey Vonn skied through pain in her left knee to win another super-G race Sunday, claiming her sixth victory of the season by a small margin over German rival Maria Riesch.

It was the second win in three days for Vonn, who also finished first in a super-G Friday on the Olympia delle Tofane course.

Vonn clocked 1 minute, 22.64 seconds on another perfectly clear day in the Dolomite range, beating overall World Cup leader Riesch by a mere 0.05 seconds. Swiss teenager Lara Gut finished third, 0.88 back. Vonn's American teammate Julia Mancuso was fourth, while Swedish standout Anja Paerson placed fifth. Vonn hurt her knee while pulling off a strenuous recovery during Saturday's downhill, in which she finished third. She skipped the downhill awards ceremony and received therapy throughout Saturday afternoon and evening and took a few painkillers to get through Sunday's race.

"It's really swollen and it's pretty solid pain," Vonn said. "But that's part of the job. It's definitely not the worst injury I've had by a long shot. It's definitely something I can deal

with."

At last year's Vancouver Olympics, Vonn shrugged off a severe shin injury to win the downhill and take bronze in the super-G.

"Nothing really tops the shin injury," she said. "I feel like I've dealt with a lot of injuries in the past and this one is pretty mild and definitely skiable."

Vonn's speed coach Chip White set the course and many skiers flew wide over a jump three-quarters of the way down and couldn't make the next gate.

"I actually had no idea he was setting the course, so I had absolutely no say in the course set," Vonn said.

Those who went out included Anna Fenninger, the Austrian who finished third Friday; Olympic super-G champion Andrea Fischbacher; former overall champion Nicole Hosp; Tina Maze of Slovenia; Fabienne Suter of Switzerland; and local favorite Elena Fanchini of Italy.

It was the 39th career win for Vonn and her fifth in Cortina, tying her with retired Italian standout Isolde Kostner. Austrian great Renate Goetschl holds the record with 10 wins in Cortina.

"I've had some of my best results here, but I've also had some really bad almost crashes or crashes, and

I feel like it's because I'm always on the limit here — you really have to push it and sometimes when you're pushing the limits making mistakes," Vonn said.

Riesch was the first of the favorites to ski and jumped a bit too far, almost missing the final gate heading into the finish area. The slight error likely cost her the win. Riesch still holds a 155-point lead over Vonn in the overall standings, while Vonn leads Riesch 380-229 in the super-G ranks.

"I'm satisfied with my weekend. It's tough to beat Vonn in the speed events and I won on Saturday and was second today. Only Friday was bad," Riesch said, referring to her ninth-place finish to open the weekend.

Vonn started immediately after Riesch and made virtually no errors as a few thousand spectators watched her descent on the jumbo screen in the finish area to the disco tune of "Barbra Streisand."

Wearing her new self-designed Hawaiian racing suit featuring green tropical flowers, Mancuso skied after Vonn and made a slight error toward the end of her run that cost her a podium spot. Still, Mancuso was content with her weekend, which also included a fourth-place finish Friday and a runner-up result



First placed Lindsey Vonn, of the U.S., celebrates on the podium at the end of an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G race, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

Saturday — her best World Cup finish in three years.

"With the way Lindsey and Maria are skiing you really have to take a lot of risks if you want to contend and at this point I'm really looking to win," said Mancuso, who hasn't won a race in four years. Mancuso can also look forward to next weekend's races across northern Italy in Sestriere, the site of her giant slalom victory at the 2006 Turin Olympics. □

## ARMSTRONG

Continued from page B1

His exit from international cycling also came to the backdrop of comments made by his former mechanic Mike Adams, who told a New Zealand newspaper that an American federal investigation into Armstrong's alleged involvement in doping could make him a "symbol for decades of corruption" in the sport.

Adams, whose claims also feature in the SI article, accused Armstrong and his associates of consistently lying when they say he never doped.

"We hear the same lies over and over again and they become truth," Adams told the Sunday Star-Times. "One of the comparisons I've made about Armstrong to countless people is the kind of stuff that came out of the mouth of George W. Bush about weapons of mass destruction and the war in Iraq. It was a bunch of made-up stuff and I think it's pretty funny that

the media advisers to George Bush and Lance Armstrong are in the same building in Austin, Texas."

Adams, who was involved in a lawsuit over a business deal in 2005, said he has spoken with chief FDA investigator Jeff Novitzky about the ongoing doping probe, and that he expects testimony he gave in connection to his lawsuit to be used in the investigation.

One of Adams' claims is that he once found a box labeled "Andro" in Armstrong's house — a term used to describe Androstenedione, a banned steroid.

"To be honest when I finally realized what was going on it was very troubling to me because Lance was my friend," Adams said. "When I had my hand forced and had to say 'I know what's going on' it was like telling a bunch of kids there's no such thing as Santa Claus."

The ongoing investigation doesn't seem to have dented Armstrong's popularity, however, with the 110,000



people who lined the street circuit in downtown Adelaide cheering him on enthusiastically. After being celebrated on stage, he thanked the crowd for their consistent support since he decided to use the race for his comeback to road cycling in 2009. "I congratulate you all on building an unbelievable event," Armstrong said. "We travel all over the world and you do not see crowds or an atmosphere like this in many places. This rivals the Tour (de France), this rivals the Giro (d'Italia), this rivals the big races. □

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Germany's Martin Kaymer reacts after he wins the Abu Dhabi Golf Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Martin Kaymer shot a 6-under par 66 on Sunday to win the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship by eight shots and climb

# Kaymer wins Abu Dhabi tournament by 8 shots

above Tiger Woods as No. 2 in the world rankings.

Kaymer held a five-shot lead going into the day and had no problem securing his third win in four years in Abu Dhabi, finishing with a 24-under total of 264. Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland finished second after a final-round 69, while Retief Goosen and Graeme McDowell were another two shots back in third.

It was the biggest winning margin and lowest total score in the history of the tournament.

The victory will lift Kaymer from third to second in the world rankings, above Woods but still below Lee Westwood.

"It's quite nice to overtake somebody who is probably the best player in the world, perhaps the best player that ever lived," Kaymer said about Woods. "To be in front of him for a little bit — we'll see how long it takes him to overtake me again — but you know, it makes me very proud to be better in the world rankings than the best player in the world."

It was Kaymer's 100th start on the European Tour, and the ninth win of his career. Goosen had the best round of the day with a 64, while McDowell closed with a 67. Phil Mickelson only finished 37th, meaning McDowell will move ahead of the reigning Masters champion at No. 4 in the rankings. Both started the week tied for fourth place. Kaymer started his round with birdies on the second and third holes, and had extended his lead over McIlroy to seven shots by the turn.

"I am very happy, especially with the way I played golf today," Kaymer said. "The most important thing for me was today that I had fun. If

I have fun, then I play good golf. I played with Rory and we definitely had a lot of fun on the golf course. He struggled a little bit on the first nine. After nine holes, I think I was leading by seven shots and then I pretty much knew if I just keep playing the way I do, I'm probably going to win." McIlroy said he quickly gave up thoughts of challenging Kaymer, and played most of the round trying to stave off those chasing behind.

"After the first couple of holes today, I was just trying to consolidate second place, that's all you're really playing for," McIlroy said. "Martin played great all week and I don't think there was anyone in the world who could have topped him this week."

Mickelson closed with a 70, and said he wasn't bothered by slipping to No. 5 in the rankings.

"I think it's interesting and it's certainly a goal of all players to get up on top of the world rankings but I think it's more interesting to see how it plays out in the majors," he said. "I'm not as concerned with the rankings as some. ... I'm more concerned with getting my game ready for the Majors." □

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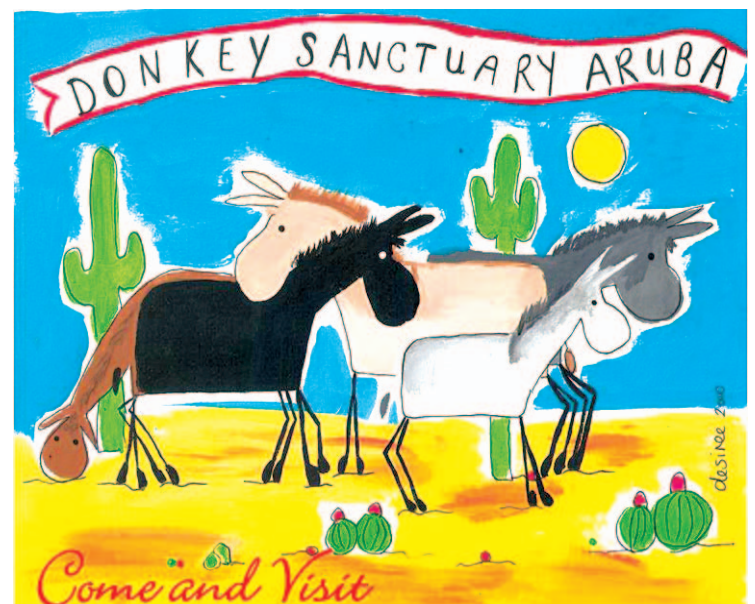
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NHL Roundup

# Stanley Cup redux: Flyers beat Blackhawks

CHICAGO (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-1 on Sunday in the only regular-season rematch of last year's Stanley Cup finals combatants.

Jeff Carter had two goals and an assist, rookie Sergei Bobrovsky made 30 saves, while Nikolay Zherdev and Scott Hartnell also scored for Chicago.

Bobrovsky lost a bid for his first career shutout in the third period when Marian Hossa scored on a penalty shot. Philadelphia improved to a league-leading 69 points and is 9-2-0 in its past 11.

Defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago lost in regulation for the first time since Jan. 5.

Sabres 5, Islanders 3

In Uniondale, New York, Nathan Gerbe snapped a tie early in the third period with a power-play goal, lifting Buffalo over New York.

With drama and intrigue surrounding the Islanders one day after they claimed veteran goalie Evgeni Nabokov off waivers from Detroit, New York was unable to beat Buffalo for the third time in nine days.

The Islanders claimed the 35-year-old Nabokov off waivers Saturday. Nabokov had his heart set on joining the contending Red Wings and has so far decided not to report to the lowly Islanders.

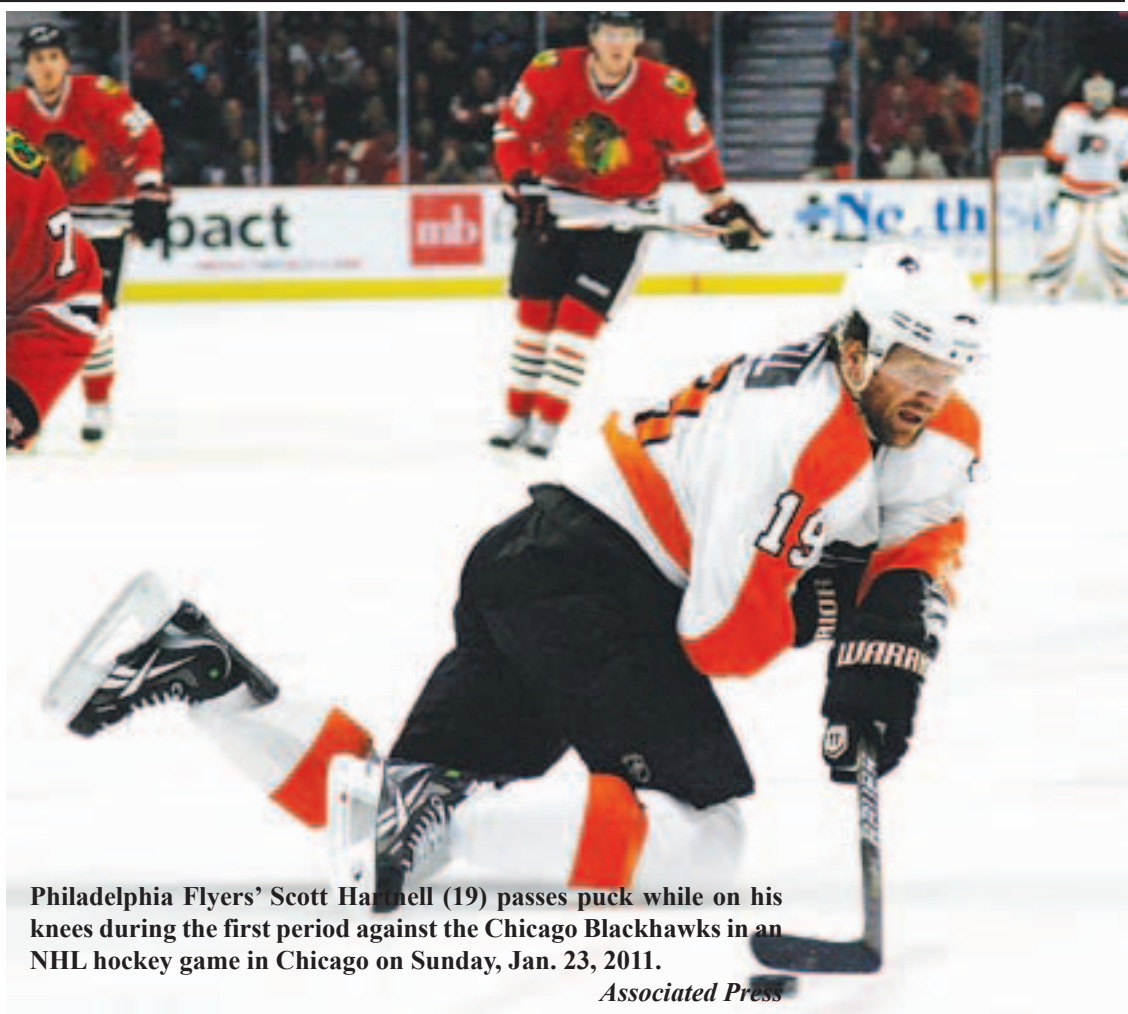
Devils 5, Panthers 2

In Newark, New Jersey, Ilya Kovalchuk had a goal and two assists, Jason Arnott scored twice and resurgent New Jersey extended its winning streak to four by defeating Florida.

Brian Rolston and Patrik Elias also scored for the Devils, who have picked up points in seven straight games.

The Devils are trying to climb out of a huge hole. They fell to the bottom of the NHL standings with a 10-29-2 record before the hot streak, a slide that cost coach John MacLean his job just before Christmas.

Shawn Matthias and Marty Reasoner scored for the Panthers, who have dropped four in a row. □



Philadelphia Flyers' Scott Hartnell (19) passes puck while on his knees during the first period against the Chicago Blackhawks in an NHL hockey game in Chicago on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

Associated Press



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Andy Roddick of the U.S. gestures as he talks to himself in frustration after losing a service game during his fourth round match against Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

*Associated Press*

# Andy Roddick out; Federer, Schiavone set major marks

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Defending champion Roger Federer matched a Grand Slam record which magnifies his extraordinary consistency over eight years, while Francesca Schiavone established a record for endurance in a women's singles match.

Day 7 at Melbourne Park was a day of record marks for the majors.

Federer equaled Jimmy Connors' mark for consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinals appearances when he beat Tommy Robredo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday. The 16-time Grand Slam winner has now reached the quarterfinals at 27 majors in a row since 2004.

He'll next play Stanislas Wawrinka in the first all-Swiss quarterfinal at a major

in the Open era. Wawrinka had a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Andy Roddick in the last match Sunday, meaning there'll be no Americans in the men's or women's quarterfinals.

"Obviously wasn't the showing that we wanted, you know, but I'm doing what I can," said Roddick, who said Wawrinka completely outplayed him. He planned to book a flight home first thing Monday.

On the women's side, French Open champion Schiavone established a Grand Slam record, needing 4 hours, 44 minutes for her 6-4, 1-6, 16-14 fourth-round win over Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Schiavone saved six match points, then converted on her third match point in the longest women's match at a major in terms of time in the Open era. The previous record was set here last year when Barbora Zahlavova-Strycova beat Regina Kulikova 7-6 (5), 6-7 (10), 6-3 in a match lasting 4:19.

The 30-year-old Italian battled exhaustion but, "at the end, you have something more, always."

"Was for me, fantastic," she said. "When you're in a situation like this, every point is like a match point. You have to keep going. You know that physically you're tired. Mentally just keep going."

Kuznetsova said the match was so long she was forgetting the score or who should serve. Schiavone said it wasn't quite that bad for her, "but I was watching the clock, and I say — 'Bravo, Francesca, you are tough!'" Schiavone will meet top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki in the quarterfinals.

Shortly after, 2008 champion Maria Sharapova lost 6-2, 6-3 to Andrea Petkovic, who had a relatively easy run into the fourth round when Venus Williams — the last American in the women's draw — retired after just four minutes in their third-round match. Sharapova attributed her loss to just a "bad day in the office." She took one positive — it was better than her first-round exit

last year.

Petkovic will now take on China's Li Na, a semifinalist here last year, in the quarterfinals.

Federer didn't concede a point on his serve in the first set, but had a lapse in the second when Robredo's serve was dominant and he took a set off Federer for only the third time in 10 matches.

Federer, seeking a fifth Australian title, regained control in the third set and dominated after getting an early break to lead 2-0.

"It's a lot of hard work. I'm sweating bullets right now," he said. "I'm excited to be in the next round."

He admitted he'd had a tough first week, including a five-set win over Gilles Simon.

"I'm in another quarterfinal. Got all the chances to make it to the semis again," Federer said, "so I'm very pleased."

Connors reached the quarterfinals in 27 consecutive majors he entered between 1973 to 1983 — although he missed 13 Grand Slam tournaments during that period of time either through injury or because he didn't travel to Australia.

No. 3-ranked Novak Djokovic is aiming for his second Australian crown. The 2008 champion advanced to the quarterfinals for the 13th time in the last 15 majors with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 win over No. 14 Nicolas Almagro and will next play last year's Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych, who beat Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Wozniacki moved into the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Anastasiya Sevastova and is just one victory from ensuring she'll retain the top ranking.

The 20-year-old Dane, playing her first major as world No. 1, can keep her top ranking with an appearance in the semis.

The questions about Wozniacki's worthiness of the top ranking are starting to diminish. Asked which player she feared most, she said: "I don't fear anyone actually." □

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# Music industry takes to the digital cloud

CANNES, France – Music is taking to the clouds after Sony said it is expanding its cloud-based digital Music Unlimited service around Europe to enable fans to access music on their digital devices.

After being launched in the United States, Britain and Ireland, Sony's "Music Unlimited powered by Qriocity" service, is being extended to France, Germany, Spain and Italy, Sony said in an announcement to coincide with Sunday's opening of the MIDEM music industry convention on the French Riviera.

The subscription service will be competing with a fast-growing number of free and paying music streaming services that include Spotify, Pandora, Last.fm, Groove Shark and We7.

Cloud-based services differ from the music streaming services that download onto a computer by allowing users

to house all their music on a remote server (or cloud) as well as giving them access to millions of tracks.

The cloud also acts as a "locker" for their own music collection so that users can access their music on different devices.

The big question mark is whether these services will bring the new revenue for the music industry, particularly after Nokia closed down its unlimited music service in most of the 33 markets in which it operated.

One potential new market is the auto industry, after Ford announced it would integrate the US-based Internet mobile radio streaming service, Pandora, into its new vehicles. Cloud services are attracting a lot of attention at MIDEM this year, as they promise to help music lovers connect their music to a host of digital devices at home and on the move.

"If you want to make a great user experience, the issue is how to make everything mesh together," Tim Schaaff, President of Sony Network Entertainment told a MIDEMNET conference in Cannes on Saturday.

Schaaff said Qriocity will link content across Sony devices, but he acknowledged the commercial risk involved: "There are a lot of bodies on the road leading to success with a digital music service, and I was very keen to avoid that fate."

Cloud-based services are also gaining in popularity as fans increasingly want to access music rather than own it, experts at MIDEM explained. "Cloud-based music services are also flavour of the month because we're finding that people want access (to music) more than they want ownership," said Harry Maloney, chief executive of Catch Media, which has



partnered with Britain's Carphone Warehouse retail chain to launch a "Music Anywhere" service.

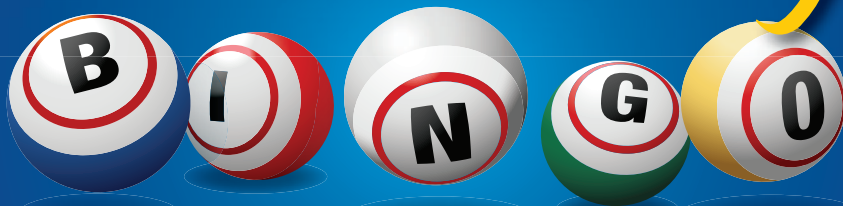
Not all the new services, however, have deals in place with the recording industry to ensure the music they offer is legal.

US-based newcomer mSpot, for example, revealed at MIDEM that they are only now trying to secure agreements with the big record labels.

This could be a potential problem for the recording industry as there is no current means of ensuring if music stored on a cloud-based service is paid-for or illegally downloaded.

Schaaff said Sony has partnered with a cloud-based unlimited music services provider, Omnifone, to build a huge catalogue of virtually all the music in the world. □

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## Hollywood's newest Olsen makes Sundance debut



PARK CITY, Utah – The younger sister of Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen is breaking into showbiz with two buzzed-about films at the Sundance Film Festival.

Elizabeth Olsen, 21, stars in “Silent House,” directed by the filmmakers who made the 2004 indie hit “Open Water.” When it debuted at Sundance, it was sold to Lionsgate for more than \$2 million.

Based on a film from Uruguay called “La Casa Muda,” “Silent House” is one continuous take as Olsen’s character begins to suspect her summer house may be haunted. Olsen compares shooting the film to theater, which she started doing as a child.

“When I was auditioning, I was like, ‘Just so you know I’m used to the medium of theater, so like I can stand on my feet for this long,’” she laughs.

Olsen’s other film at Sundance is “Martha Macy

May Marlene,” where she plays a young women trying to readjust to life after escaping from a cult.

“It’s hard for independent films when they want to get money,” said Olsen. “And to have a lead be an unknown it’s kind of a risk for people to take. And so the fact that they took that risk was like made my year, my life, I don’t know! It was really exciting.” The actress may be enthusiastic about her career but turns serious when it comes to the idea of being a tabloid target like her big sisters, now 24, who are chased constantly by paparazzi. The Olsen twins have been in the spotlight since they were hired as infants to share a role in the TV comedy “Full House.”

“When I would go shopping with my sisters when I was younger, it would be dangerous. People would almost get us into car accidents. I just think it’s crazy in general but I want to be an actor and I have since I was a little girl and if that happens, then you figure out how to deal with it where it doesn’t completely infringe upon your life,” said Olsen. “I haven’t experienced that personally yet. Hopefully I don’t have to but I think it’s a really weird part of this business.” □

## Elton John feels like ‘second-class citizen’

LOS ANGELES – Sir Elton John is “fed up” with being a treated like a “second-class citizen” in the U.S.

That’s why the 63-year-old gay singer said he took a stand last week during a performance at a private Beverly Hills fundraiser for the ongoing legal challenge to California’s gay marriage ban. The outspoken British piano man, who became a parent to a baby boy on Christmas Day with partner David Furnish, added that “as I get older, I get more angry about it.”

“In this country, we need more dialogue,” he said during an interview Friday. “We don’t need any more stone throwing. We don’t need any more vitriol. We need people to say, ‘OK. I’m straight. You’re gay. Let’s get along. I’m Republican. You’re Democratic. Let’s work together.’ I’m sick and tired of people being hateful to each other in this country.”

John disappointed some gay rights activists after California’s Proposition 8 banning gay marriage passed in 2008 when he said he had no desire to get married and was satisfied with his civil partnership in England. He sang a different tune Wednesday when he praised the effort to overturn Proposition 8 and promised to do everything he could to support it, even though he is



British.

The couple’s son, Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John, was born in California through a surrogate mother. John said he was disappointed that members of the Church of England questioned his parenthood in the days following his son’s birth. He insisted that he’s not against religion and that “Jesus was a wonderful, compassionate man, who forgave on the

cross.”

“Everyone is entitled to have their own beliefs and their own spirituality,” said John. “The big difference is that the dogma of the church can be so hateful and divisive. It’s stuck in the stone age. We don’t live in the stone age anymore. The church is losing people left, right and center because people are fed up with the rhetoric that they’re giving them.” □

## Oprah and OWN give documentaries a lift at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah – Media mogul Oprah Winfrey vowed to bring documentary movies into homes across the United States on her new OWN television network in an effort she likened to her hugely successful book club.

At a Saturday launch party at the Sundance Film Festival, which has long championed documentary movies, Winfrey told a delighted crowd that outspoken celebrity Rosie O’Donnell will be OWN’s “curator” of non-fiction films. O’Donnell will host specials in which the films’

makers and subjects are featured when the OWN Documentary Film Club launches this spring.

“It is my intention to do for documentaries what we have been able to do for books,” Winfrey said. “My goal, my dream, my intention is to bring documentaries into the mainstream, to have them stimulate new ways of thinking.”

Non-fiction films have long been the stepchildren to their far more popular siblings, narrative feature films, and it is rare when a documentary gets the necessary marketing and

promotion to bring in big bucks at box offices.

Only 12 have broken the \$10 million mark in movie theaters, according to industry tracker Boxoffice Mojo.com. Last year’s highly-praised educational documentary “Waiting for Superman,” which premiered at Sundance, has taken in only \$6.7 million.

Most documentaries end up airing on TV, but outlets that air them in that medium are limited to only a few -- most prominently subscriber-based cable TV network HBO.

In her book club, launched



on her daytime talk program “The Oprah Winfrey Show” during the mid-1990s, Winfrey would pick a title, audiences would read it, and then she would host shows to discuss the books with authors and experts.

The effort, which generated a few controversies among its selections, nevertheless kept her millions of fans tuned-in and made many of the chosen titles instant bestsellers. □





## Bar set high as stocks eye pullback

NEW YORK — The much anticipated pullback is finally under way, some investors say, after a mid-week wobble. But the market is showing it still has some juice left -- if earnings can meet towering expectations.

This earnings season, if you're good, you're just OK. If you're just OK, you're bad. And if you're bad, you're quickly taken outside and put out of your misery. Only the truly great are lauded -- and even then not very much.

In an environment like that, and with a heavily extended market, disappointments are

taken hard. The S&P 500 just ended its first down week in eight with underwhelming results from the likes of Goldman Sachs (GS.N) and Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold (FCX.N) weighing on indexes.

Some big energy companies such as Chevron Corp (CVX.N) and ConocoPhillips (COP.N) are reporting results this week. Expectations have been running up in the sector, the third-largest in the S&P 500, providing plenty of room for disappointment.

"We have been climbing up a mountain, and we are on a

ledge here, so there is definitely a bit of a pause as people are going to need some evidence of accelerated recovery -- not just baseline recovery," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm LibertyView Capital Management, in New York.

Analysts have beefed up expectations as stocks rocketed late last year on signs of an improving economy. S&P 500 earnings estimates for the current quarter were revised up 1 percent over the last 60 days, according to data from StarMine.

Positive revisions were



heavily concentrated in the technology, energy and materials sectors. Estimates in the materials sector were raised 5.7 percent; in energy, they rose 4.8 percent, and in technology, 2.3 percent, StarMine said.

Unsurprisingly, those three sectors, along with financials, took the brunt of selling last week. Materials shares (.GSPM) fell the most, losing 3.3 percent over the week. On top of that, big-gaining "mo-mo" momentum stocks like F5 Networks (FFIV.O), Salesforce.com (CRM.N), Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) and Riverbed Technology (RVBD.O), are looking shaky after F5 Networks missed revenue estimates and forecast a weak second quarter. Its shares tumbled more than 20 percent.

Wall Street will tune in to

President Barack Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday night, when he is expected to make job creation the No. 1 issue.

The Federal Reserve's policy-making panel also will meet for the first time this year, convening on Tuesday and concluding on Wednesday afternoon, when the Federal Open Market Committee's statement will get Wall Street's attention. Some economists believe the FOMC may give a slight nod to signs of improvement in the U.S. economy, especially among consumers and factories.

The week's economic data includes consumer confidence, durable goods orders, a first look at January consumer sentiment from the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan surveys, and the first look at fourth-quarter gross domestic product. □

## Judge says Bear Stearns investor case can proceed

NEW YORK -- Plaintiffs in one of the biggest U.S. investor lawsuits stemming from the financial crisis got a boost from a judge, who said a case against fallen investment bank Bear Stearns and its outside auditor, Deloitte & Touche, can go forward.

The decision means that one-time Bear Stearns investors can move ahead with a proposed securities class-action fraud case, though the judge threw out two related lawsuits that had been rolled into the litigation. The investors accuse former Bear chiefs of painting a wildly misleading picture of the firm's finances ahead of its March 2008 unraveling.

Among the defendants is former Bear chief risk officer Michael Alix, who joined the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in November 2008 as a top bank regulation adviser. Alix's lawyer was not immediately available to comment.

Representatives from JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N), which bought Bear Stearns at a bargain price at the start of the credit crisis were also not immediately available for comment.

"It is important to recognize



that in ruling on the defendants' motions to dismiss, the court was required to assume that the allegations in the plaintiffs' complaint were true. At this stage of the case the court was not permitted to and did not consider whether those allegations actually are true or whether the plaintiffs have evidence to support their allegations," a Deloitte spokesperson said in a statement.

"Deloitte believes that the claims asserted against it are meritless and intends to defend this case vigorously," the spokesperson said.

Bear Stearns disintegrated when the firm faced a run on the bank following enormous mortgage losses. Bear became the first investment bank to collapse in a credit crisis

that later claimed Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch & Co Inc.

The fraud case is one of many investor lawsuits to grow out of the crisis, although plaintiffs in such cases have typically faced an uphill battle to prove their claims. Auditing firms so far have been largely successful in fighting investor lawsuits, although in this ruling the judge said Deloitte would also have to remain a defendant for its role as Bear's auditor.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet in Manhattan refused to dismiss a lawsuit against plaintiffs led by the Michigan Retirement System, which held Bear Stearns shares in its portfolio. That means the fund can continue to press their claims and possibly bring it to trial. □

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# HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY

### How to Get Smart About Weight Loss



By this point, New Year's resolutions might be a dim memory which makes it a good time for fine-tuning, especially for those who resolved to lose weight. Brittany Glassett, a registered dietitian with Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver, suggests using what she calls the "SMART" system to create

goals for yourself with "smart" being an acronym for goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. In the area of specificity, for example, don't just plan to "eat better." Make a specific goal, such as eating fast food three fewer times a month.

Write down your goals and focus on just one or two at a time to avoid becoming overwhelmed. Then keep working on those one or two goals until you've made a change, remembering that it takes about three weeks to adopt a new habit.

Glassett also suggests thinking about mini-goals. Instead of saying you'll lose 50 pounds, consider losing 5 pounds over the next four weeks.

And get support from family and friends: Let them know about your goals and tell them to hold you accountable. Glassett also has created a list of what she calls six small changes that make a big difference:

Eat more whole grains, which contain heart-healthy fiber along with vitamins and

minerals. Fiber can help you stay full between meals.

Add color to your plate through such foods as fruits and vegetables. Try putting three colors on the plate that aren't white, cream or yellow. Don't skip meals. And consider having smaller meals every three or four hours rather than bigger ones less often.

Cut down on soda, juice and high-calorie coffee drinks, which are full of empty calories.

Replace vegetable oil with canola oil and olive oil, which are better for your heart.

Keep a food diary, if only for a couple days a week. Studies have shown that people who keep track of what they eat have more success losing weight and keeping it off. □

### Updated rehab aims to give Giffords her life back

HOUSTON — She inspired the nation with her fairy-tale recovery. Now Rep. Gabrielle Giffords must inspire herself through the ordeal of rehabilitation, and doctors say it's likely to be the hardest work she'll ever do. Just a couple of decades ago, rehab was little more than physical therapy for shuffling stroke victims and wheelchair-bound quadriplegics, a last resort after doctors had done all they could. Now it's a sophisticated science at the forefront of treating people like Giffords, who was shot in the forehead two weeks ago while meeting constituents in Tucson. An early start on rehab is key to limiting permanent damage, and the Houston hospital where she will be treated uses high-tech tools to push the brain to rewire itself. The Arizona congresswoman arrived Friday at the Texas

Medical Center, where she is expected to spend a few days in intensive care before moving to TIRR Memorial Hermann rehab hospital. Dr. Gerard Francisco, the hospital's chief medical officer, said Saturday that she was "even more alert today" and progressing nicely with therapy. Instead of doctors making you well, rehab means "teaching you how to help yourself" to get your life back, said Dr. William Donovan, a former medical director of the rehab hospital who still works there part-time. It's frustrating when your muscles and mind won't work the way you want them to. Emotional challenges, post-traumatic stress and physical problems like seizures, headaches and infections loom as risks that could complicate her recovery. No one can predict how she will do, or what her "new normal"



will be, as the hospital's CEO, Carl Josehart puts it. A CT scan on arrival showed "really minimal" injury for the mortal wound she had, said Dr. Dong Kim, neurosurgery chief for University of Texas Health Science Center.

The type of bullet, its path, good trauma care and her general health before the injury bode well for her, but "a bigger impact on recovery is the amount of family and social support after the injury," said Mark Sherer, a neuropsychologist at the rehab hospital.

After doing a head-to-toe mapping of her injuries and abilities, "we'll have to figure out how to meet each and every deficit," Francisco said. The first step: setting a goal, such as being able to live independently or to return to work or school. "We try to tailor that to what's realistic," Josehart said. □

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The project is part of Nepal's efforts to double its population of Royal Bengal tigers, which once roamed the country's southern plains in large numbers but have been depleted by poaching and the destruction of their habitat. □

## An aerial photograph showing a large body of water, likely a flooded field or river. In the center, there is a small, elongated island of land covered with numerous small, light-colored buildings or structures. The surrounding water is a uniform greyish-brown color. The background shows more land with scattered trees and structures, also partially submerged.

“There’s a large number of entrepreneurial lawyers and NGOs who are hunting around for a way to gain leverage on the climate problem,” said David Victor, director of the Laboratory on International Law and Regulation at the University of California at San Diego.

In the United States, many cases seek clarification on the right of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, while in Europe, the main issue has

Then there is the business of distinguishing between weather and climate. For instance, hurricanes, droughts and floods have always occurred in human history. Can one, or even several, of these be pinned to human meddling in the climate system? □

[illegible]



# Bolivia celebra primer año Estado Plurinacional

LA PAZ (Reuters) - Coloridas delegaciones indígenas se apoderaron el sábado de la plaza principal de La Paz para festejar junto al presidente Evo Morales el primer año del ahora llamado Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, en medio de dudas sobre la estabilidad política y económica del país.

Un festival con ofrendas a la Madre Tierra abrió la conmemoración antes de que Morales presente su quinto informe de gestión, o el primero de su segundo mandato, que terminó marcado por tropiezos de última hora que aparentemente le restaron popularidad.

“Hay muchas cosas que festejar, éste es un Gobierno de las mayorías (...) y de los errores lo que tenemos que hacer es aprender”, dijo Máxima Condori, una comerciante informal, mientras observaba la celebración en la Plaza Murillo.

El optimismo del Gobierno no coincidía con nuevas señales de desgaste de Morales, cuyo desempeño es seguido de cerca por Brasil y Argentina, que se abastecen de gas natural boliviano, y su aliados líderes izquierdistas de Venezuela y Cuba.

Una encuesta de Ipsos Apoyo publicada el sábado por el diario La Razón indicó que la aprobación a Morales bajó a 36 por ciento a principios de

enero, la cifra más baja en sus cinco años de Gobierno.

La caída fue atribuida en gran parte a un fallido reajuste de precios de combustibles hace menos de un mes, que enfrentó al Gobierno con los sindicatos y otras entidades sociales.

## LUCES Y SOMBRAS

Tras cinco años en el poder, y con gran mayoría legislativa desde que inició su segundo mandato en enero del 2010, Morales puede anotar entre sus logros el haber casi acabado con los partidos tradicionales, de centro y de derecha.

Puede mostrar también el avance del primer régimen de autonomías y una generosa reforma de pensiones, arropados por una economía con cinco años consecutivos de crecimiento y superávit que dieron como resultado un aumento del producto per cápita anual a 1.800 dólares, casi el doble que en el 2005.

Pero el mandatario también afrontó un fracasado “gasolinazo” de fines del 2010, con el que quiso poner fin a una costosa subvención y alentar inversiones petroleras. Forzado a anular la medida luego de sólo cinco días, por duras protestas populares, escasez de alimentos y caos de precios, el presidente descubrió en los movimientos sociales, su principal sostén político, el mayor obstáculo para sus declaradas intenciones de apertura a

inversiones extranjeras.

Morales inicia su sexto año de Gobierno con poco margen de movimiento entre su discurso socialista y la urgencia de dar incentivos a petroleras y otras empresas para inversiones que podrían ser vitales.

También pesa sobre él otro revés político de última hora: el asilo dado por Paraguay al gobernador opositor Mario Cossío, que huyó para evadir un juicio por presunta corrupción.

“Fue la peor derrota política externa de Morales”, dijo el analista Jorge Lazarte.

Otro analista, Carlos Cordero, dijo que los tropiezos de Morales podían ser atribuidos en parte a su actitud arrogante ante la oposición y por las críticas de sus mismos seguidores.

“Debe haber más tolerancia (en Morales), todos los sectores le pueden dar una segunda oportunidad en aspectos de política y economía, pero si sigue con su actitud, la sociedad le va a responder con dureza”, advirtió.



Foto de archivo del presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, durante una conferencia de prensa en el palacio presidencial de La Paz, dic 29 2010. REUTERS/David Mercado

## Cuba suspende envío de correo a EEUU

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Cuba suspendió el viernes el envío de correo a Estados Unidos a través de terceros países, dejando en el limbo negociaciones para restablecer el servicio postal directo interrumpido hace medio siglo por la Guerra Fría.

La empresa estatal Correos de Cuba dijo que cartas y paquetes enviados a Estados Unidos a través de terceros países le fueron devueltos tras la entrada en vigor a fines del 2010 en esa nación de nuevas regulaciones de seguridad. “Se cancelan hasta nuevo aviso los envíos postales hacia Estados Unidos”, dijo la empresa en un comunicado difundido por la televisión estatal. □

## Bolivia cambia ministro pero no política petrolera

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente izquierdista de Bolivia, Evo Morales, relevó el domingo al ministro de Hidrocarburos, en un pequeño reajuste de gabinete que no dio señales de un cambio de rumbo en su política de estatización de la economía.

El cambio de sólo tres de los 20 ministros, dejando intactos a las áreas política y social, fue dispuesto por Morales al día siguiente de iniciar el segundo año de su segundo mandato en medio de una ola de especulaciones sobre un ajuste profundo del Gobierno.

José Luis Gutiérrez, hasta hace poco viceministro de Industrialización y Transporte de Hidrocarburos, se convirtió en el sexto ministro de Hidrocarburos de Morales, mandatario indígena que nacionalizó en mayo del 2006 la industria de hidrocarburos que exporta gas a Argentina y Brasil.

“Los proyectos están en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, es el lineamiento que tenemos”, dijo Gutiérrez a periodistas que

le consultaron sobre las prioridades de su gestión.

Ese plan detalla los objetivos de la nacionalización, que convirtió a las operadoras extranjeras en contratistas al servicio de la petrolera estatal local YPFB, que aprueba los planes de inversión en la exploración de gas y petróleo y en la construcción de redes internas de gasoductos.

Gutiérrez reemplazó a Fernando Vincenti, un antiguo ejecutivo de YPFB.

Morales afirmó tras tomar juramento al gabinete que más allá de su compromiso con los llamados movimientos sociales él tenía la responsabilidad mayor en el Gobierno.

“Vamos a seguir trabajando sin descanso (...) pero así como los dirigentes de los movimientos sociales tienen sus atribuciones, el Presidente tiene también sus atribuciones constitucionales”, dijo en referencia a recientes demandas sindicales de drásticos cambios en el gabinete. □



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